

## **OFFICES**

OF

# PUBLIC WORSHIP,

FOR THE USE OF

## UNITARIAN CHRISTIANS;-

SELECTED AND PARTLY COMPOSED BY

WILLIAM TURNER.



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# PREFACE.

It is by no means the intention of this publication to supersede the use of Free Prayer in Dissenting Churches: It is rather the Author's wish to encourage an attention among his Younger Friends, to acquire a habit of expressing themselves, on all occasions, with ease and propriety; a habit which, if he had cultivated it in early life, would have saved him many mortifying regrets. But, like all the gifts of God, it must be obtained by patient and diligent study, or it will not be given.—A habit of hesitation, early acquired, induced the Author to precompose his Devotional Offices, as well as his Addresses to the People: and as he has been frequently asked for particular prayers, it has struck him that if he were to print a considerable number of the Forms which he commonly uses, it might answer several good purposes.

It might, in the first place, comply with the wishes of particular friends, more fully indeed, but, it is hoped, not less acceptably, than they had desired.

Secondly, it might supply to his Friends at large, and especially his Younger Friends, the opportunity of accompanying him in the Devotional parts of the Service, without any of that wandering of thought which, it must after all be confessed, is the too frequent consequence of extempore prayers, especially of long prayers; and which, in the cases of very young persons, is so often found to be the case, that it gets into a habit scarcely to be overcome, at all times, by the very best christians, in future life. These, by following the Minister in this part of the service with their eyes as well as their ears, will more contract a habit of attention, which will not, probably, be broken afterwards: and if such a habit be formed, it will be exercised with even a more intense strength in cases where their regular Minister shall choose to depart from his usual custom, or another Minister shall conduct the service in his own way.

For it is proper that the Author should

here distinctly notice, that it is by no means his intention to confine himself to the Offices which are contained in this Book; but whenever any particular occasion shall lead his devotional thoughts into a different channel, he will think himself at full liberty to conduct the service in such a manner as may be most congenial to his own feelings, or as he may judge more likely to make a favourable impression on his fellow-worshippers.—And in the cases of his Friends, who may occasionally favour him with their assistance, it is his wish, that they be left at full liberty to conduct the public services in whatever way may be most agreeable to their usual habits.

The following Services are partly original, and partly compiled from various sources. A third purpose, therefore, which they may serve, will be to furnish young Ministers a variety of models, which, whether in the use of Free Prayer, or of precomposed Forms, they may find some advantage in studying.

A fourth purpose is, that many Unitarian Families and small Associations, who are so situated in point of residence, that they cannot conveniently join themselves to any

by these helps, conduct among themselves the worship of God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, on the Lord's Day, at the same time reading the Scriptures, and the expositions and sermons of judicious men, till an opportunity shall occur of their joining in Public worship with greater satisfaction, by the establishment in their neighbourhood of some Society, the services of whose Minister they can conscientiously attend. Many such, the Author is well assured, are thus uncomfortably circumstanced; and if this little Book should prove of any assistance in this respect, it will afford him great satisfaction.

It is true there are already many publications of a devotional nature to which such persons might have recourse. The Essex Street "Book of Common Prayer Reformed" was denominated in a late debate, "The Liturgy of the Unitarians"; as the "Improved Version" is often called "their Bible": and it is true that these are books for which in general they have a high, but not an exclusive, value; and neither to them, nor to any other merely human book or person, do they allow any authority. The Liverpool, Manchester, Mansfield, and other local liturgies, are not easily procured: Dr. Estlin's General Prayer-Book, and Mr. Rutt's small but valuable collection, are indeed regularly in the market. But they are all liable to an objection in the minds of many Dissenters, that they are broken into short and separate collects, and interrupted by responses; which, however they may be set off by the ceremonial accompaniments in established churches, do not appear so suitable to the habits of those at least who have been educated amongst Dissenters. Such may, perhaps, feel the following Offices more agreeable: and it is hoped that they will not be found to labour under another objection often made against dissenting worship, of fatiguing by the prolixity of the service.

Indeed the Author has often imagined that he observed, in the congregations where Liturgies are used, whether in established churches or in dissenting places of worship, an apparent carelessness as to those portions which were read by the clergyman, provided that they only kept themselves ready for the response. On this account, if it should be thought desirable that the congregation should take any active part in the service, the Author would rather recommend that it should be done by occasionally joining with the Minister, than by responding to him: and in such way a trial might be made with the sentences printed in Italics in several of the following Offices; with the Lord's Prayer, the Amen, &c. If he might venture to borrow a professional term, he would call this a Symphony, rather than a Response: which indeed, in the Catholic Liturgies, is itself in many cases called an Antiphona.

In order to facilitate the use of this book in public worship, the two pages which are opposite to each other at the close of this Preface, contain the several sentences of Scripture, alphabetically arranged, which stand respectively at the head of each Office. The number of the Office is annexed in Roman, and of the page in Arabic, numerals. The person who intends to use the book should have these pages open at the commencement of the service, and the eye will readily catch the sentence recited, which will direct to the page where the Office for the day begins.—

In the morning it is usual to begin with a short introductory prayer, and then a longer prayer between the lessons; in the afternoon only one prayer is commonly used.—If the morning service begins with the General Introductory Prayer, it will be followed, after the first lesson, with one of the afternoon long prayers; which will be found by having again recourse to the Index of Scripture-Sentences.

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#### OFFICES

OF

## PUBLIC WORSHIP.

I.

[From the Morning and Evening Service of the Church.]

IF WE SAY THAT WE HAVE NO SIN, WE DECEIVE OURSELVES, AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN US; LET US THEREFORE CONFESS OUR SINS TO HIM, WHO IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS, AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.—1 John I. 8, 9.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who hast in sundry places of holy scripture encouraged us to acknowledge and forsake our manifold sins and offences, to the end that we may receive forgiveness of the same through Thine infinite goodness and mercy; we would not presume to dissemble or cloak them in Thy presence who knowest all things, but would confess them with an humble, penitent, and obedient heart. And although it becometh us at all times to acknowledge our sins before Thee, yet ought we

especially so to do, when we assemble to render thanks for the great benefits which we have received at Thy hands, to set forth Thy most worthy praise, to hear Thy most holy word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary as well for the body as the soul. It is, therefore, our earnest desire and purpose to accompany each other, with a contrite heart and humble voice, to the throne of Thy heavenly grace, confessing that we have erred and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep, have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, have offended against Thy holy laws, have left undone these things which we ought to have done, and have done those things which we ought not to have done. But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders: spare Thou them, O God, who confess their faults; restore Thou them that are penitent, according to Thy promises declared unto mankind through Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, that for his sake we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Thy holy name. And since Thou desirest not the the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live; and hast declared by Jesus Christ Thy gracious purpose to pardon and absolve all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly obey his holy gospel; we beseech Thee to grant us true repentance, and the aids of Thy holy spirit, that those things may please Thee which we do at this present

time, and that the rest of our lives hereafter may be pure and holy; so that, at the last, we may come to Thine eternal joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Our Father, &c.

## [Lessons read from the Old Testament.]

O come let us sing unto the Lord, let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God; and a great King above all Gods. In His hands are all the corners of the earth; the strength of the hills is His also: the sea is His, and He made it; and His hands formed the dry land. O come let us worship, and bow down before the Lord our Maker!

We praise Thee, O God, we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord: all the earth doth worship Thee, the Father Everlasting! To Thee all Angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein: and with them Thy church throughout all the world should join continually to acknowledge Thee, holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts! heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy glory.

All the works of the Lord shew forth the goodness of the Lord: they praise and magnify Him for ever: it is meet that the children of men should especially bless the Lord, the Father—of an infinite majesty;

who hath manifested Himself unto us by His holy and well-beloved Son, and by the promise of the comfort of the spirit of His grace. We bless the Lord, the God of our Salvation, for He hath visited and redeemed His people; and hath raised up a mighty Saviour for us: as He spake by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began; that we, being delivered from sin and death, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness, all the days of our lives.

We acknowledge Jesus Christ to be the prophet of the Highest, before whom Thou didst send Thy holy servant John to go before his face to prepare the ways of the Lord; to give knowledge of salvation unto His people, for the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sate in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. We therefore pray Thee, help Thy servants, whom Thou hast favoured with the knowledge of the gospel of Thy Son, and teach us to obey his holy commandments, and to imitate his excellent example; that when he shall come to be our judge, we may be numbered with Thy saints in glory everlasting.

O blessed Lord our God, who hast caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear, read, observe, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of Thy holy word we may embrace and ever hold fast the joyful hope of eternal life, which Thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

O Lord our heavenly Father, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day, defend us in the same by Thine almighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of evil; but that all our actions being ordered by Thy governance, we may always do that which is righteous in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[ (Or at Evening Prayer.) O God, our gracious preserver, who hast safely conducted through so much of this day, continue to protect us as the shades of evening close upon us, lighten our darkness, we beseech Thee, and by Thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of the night; and keep us ever in the love and obedience of Thee, and of Thy son Jesus Christ our Lord.]

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed, give unto Thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey Thy commandments, and also that by Thee we being defended from the fear of evil, may pass our time in rest and quietness, as obedient disciples of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in the knowledge of whom consisteth our

eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom, grant us Thy continual protection that we may be safe from all our enemies, and evermore give thanks unto Thee in the congregation of Thy people. Give peace in our time, O Lord; for none other is our sure defence, but only Thou, O God.

O God our Heavenly Father, high and mighty, King of kings, and Lord of lords, the Sovereign Ruler of princes, who dost from Thy throne behold all the dwellers upon earth, most heartily we bescech Thee with Thy favour to behold Thy servant George our King and Governor, and so replenish him with Thy holy spirit, that he may always incline to Thy will, and walk in Thy way. Endue him plenteously with heavenly gifts; grant him in health and happiness long to live; prosper all his righteous undertakings; and finally, after this life may he attain everlasting joy and felicity through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, we humbly beseech Thee to bless the whole Royal Family: endue them with Thy heavenly spirit; enrich them with Thy heavenly grace; prosper them with all happiness; and bring them to Thine everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[ (During the sitting of Parliament.) Almighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, as for this kingdom in general, so especially for the High Court of Parliament, at this time assembled: that Thou wouldst be pleased to direct all their con-

sultations to the welfare of these realms, that all things may be so ordered and settled upon the best and surest foundations, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and virtue, may flourish in the midst of us throughout all generations.]

[ (During the sitting of the Courts of Justice.) O God, by whom Kings reign, and Princes decree justice, direct the Judges and Magistrates of the realm to administer the public justice with wisdom and equity; and may their labours be effectual, through Thy blessing, for the prevention of crimes, and the establishment of this whole realm in the observance of the laws, and the maintenance of order and peace.]

O God, the Creator and Preserver of men, we humbly beseech Thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that Thou wouldst be pleased to make Thy ways known unto them, Thy saving health unto all nations. Especially we pray for the extension and true prosperity of the Christian Church, in all parts of the world; that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and may hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. To this end we pray unto Thee, the author of every good and perfect gift, to send down upon Thy servants, the teachers of religion, of every name, sect, and party, the needful spirit of Thy grace; and that they may truly please Thee, pour down upon them the continual dew of Thy blessings. This we humbly ask as the disciples of Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Finally, we commend to Thy fatherly goodness all those who are any way afflicted, in mind, body, or estate (especially Thy servants for whom our prayers are desired); that it may please Thee to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we humbly ask as the disciples of Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, father of all mercies, we Thy unworthy servants do give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for all Thy goodness and loving kindness to us and to all men (particularly to those who desire now to offer up their praises and thanksgivings for Thy late mercies vouchsafed unto them). thank Thee for our creation and preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by Thy son Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech Thee, give us that due sense of all Thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we may shew forth Thy praise not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving ourselves up to Thy service, and by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days, according to the gospel of Thy well-beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Now to the King Eternal, Immortal, Invisible, the Only Wise God, be honour and glory for ever.

Amen.

[Here may follow Lessons from the New Testament, with or without Exposition—A Psalm sung—and the Sermon.]

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto Thee, and to meditate on the truths and duties contained in Thy word; and who dost graciously encourage us to depend upon the promise of Thy well-beloved Son, that wherever two or three are gathered together in his name, Thou wilt grant their requests, as if he were himself present in the midst of them; fulfil now, O Lord, we beseech Thee, the desires and petitions of Thy servants, as shall be most expedient for us; by granting us in this world the knowledge of Thy truth, and the grace to observe and practise it, and in the world to come life everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

The peace of God, which passeth understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of Himself, and of His Son Jesus Christ: and the blessing of God, the Father Almighty, be amongst you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

#### II.

[From the Litany, or General Supplication.]

TO THE LORD OUR GOD BELONG MERCIES AND FOR-GIVENESS, THOUGH WE HAVE REBELLED AGAINST HIM, NEITHER HAVE WE OBEYED THE VOICE OF THE LORD OUR GOD, TO WALK IN HIS LAWS WHICH HE HATH SET BEFORE US.—Dan. ix. 9, 10.

O God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things that are therein; the God and Father of Jesus Christ, Redeemer of the world, by whom Thou hast revealed Thy gracious purpose of forgiveness upon repentance, and of eternal life, have mercy upon us, thine offending and guilty creatures. By the gracious influences of Thy Holy Spirit, turn us from the evil of our past lives; and so govern, direct, and sanctify the hearts of Thy servants, that they may become proper objects of Thy pardoning mercy. Remember not against us, O Lord, our past offences, nor the offences of our forefathers; and for the glory of Thy name, turn from us those evils which we have most righteously deserved. Spare us, most merciful Father, spare Thy people; and have compassion on the work of Thine hands.

Spare us, good Lord.

From all outward evil and mischief; from sin,

with its crafts, assaults, and temptations; from Thy righteous displeasure, and from the danger of final condemnation; Good Lord, deliver us! And in order to this do Thou mercifully preserve us from blindness of heart, from pride, vain glory, and hypocrisy, from envy, hatred, and malice, and from all uncharitableness; from fleshly lusts, that war against the soul, and from all the deceitful allurements of this present evil world; from all sedition, secret conspiracy, and rebellion; from all false doctrine, and spirit of division and party; from hardness of heart, and contempt of Thy word and commandments. And while we continue in this world, preserve us, if it please Thee, from lightning and tempest, from plague, pestilence, and famine, from battle and murder, and, if it please Thee, from untimely, but especially from unprepared-for, death. In the time of tribulation and in the time of prosperity-in the season of health and on the bed of sickness-in the hour of death and at the day of judgment-good Lord support, preserve, and deliver us!

We sinners do beseech Thee to hear us, O Lord God, that it may please Thee to direct and keep all Thy sincere worshippers in the right way: that it may please Thee to preserve, and strengthen in Thy true religion, the true worship of Thee, and in right-eousness and holiness of life, Thy servant George our King and Governor; to rule his heart in Thy faith, fear, and love, that he may ever place his confidence

in Thee, and ever seek Thine honour and glory; to be at all times his gracious Defender and Keeper, and to prosper all his righteous undertakings; to bless and preserve the whole Royal family; to enlighten all the ministers of religion with true knowledge and understanding of Thy word; that both by their preaching and living they may set it forth and recommend it accordingly; to endue the Lords of the Council, the Members of both Houses of Parliament with grace, wisdom, and understanding; to bless and keep the Magistracy, supreme and subordinate, and enable them to execute justice and to maintain peace; to bless and preserve all Thy people of these realms; and finally to grant unto all nations unity, peace, and concord.

For ourselves we beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness, to give to each of us a heart to love and reverence Thee, and diligently to live after Thy commandments; to grant unto us and to all Thy people increase of the knowledge of Thy word, and sincere desire to obey it; that we may hear it at all times with meekness and reverence; receive it with pure affection, and bring forth the proper fruits of it in all holy conversation and godliness.

We also beseech Thee for our fellow-creatures every where, that it may please Thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred and are deceived; by Thy grace to strengthen such as do stand, to comfort and help the weak-hearted, and to raise up

them that fall; and finally to give unto all the victory over every temptation.

May it please Thee also to succour, help and comfort all that are in danger, necessity and tribulation: to preserve all that are travelling by land or water; all women labouring of child; all sick persons and young children; and to shew Thy pity upon all prisoners and captives; defend and provide for the fatherless children and widows, and all that are desolate and oppressed; especially for all that suffer for righteousness' sake.

O gracious Father! bless, preserve, and shew mercy unto all men. Forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and turn their hearts.

May it please Thee to give, and to preserve to our use, the kindly fruits of the earth; so that in their several seasons we may enjoy them.

And we beseech Thee, O Lord, accept our sincere repentance, forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances, and endue us with the grace of Thy holy spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy word. O merciful Father, who despisest not the sighing of a contrite heart, nor the desire of such as be sorrowful with a godly sorrow, graciously assist our prayers which we make before Thee in all our troubles and adversities whensoever they oppress us; and mercifully hear us, that those evils, which the force of powerful temptations, or the craft or subtilty of man worketh against us, may be brought to nought, and

by the providence of Thy goodness be disposed, that we Thy servants, being hurt by no assault or trial, may ever more give thanks unto Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O Lord, we have heard with our ears, and our Fathers have declared unto us, the noble works which Thou didst in their days, and in the old time before them; graciously look upon our afflictions; pitifully behold the sorrows of our hearts; mercifully forgive the sins of Thy people; favourably with mercy hear our prayers.

We humbly beseech Thee, O Father, graciously to look upon our infirmities, and grant for the honour of Thy holy name that in all our trials we may put our whole trust and confidence in Thy mercy, and ever more serve Thee in holiness and pureness of living, as becomes the sincere and faithful disciples of Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, who hast given us grace, &c. Our Father, &c.

#### III.

PRAISE WAITETH FOR THEE, O God! AND UNTO THEE SHALL THE VOW BE PERFORMED. O THOU THAT HEAREST PRAYER, UNTO THEE LET ALL FLESH COME!

### Introductory Prayer.

O ETERNAL, incomprehensible, invisible Jehovah, infinite in power, wisdom, and goodness, dwelling in light to which no man can approach, where the most exalted of glorified spirits veil their faces before Thee; yet dwelling also with the humble and contrite, and taking pleasure to raise the spirit of the humble, and revive the hearts of the contrite ones! Thou hast consecrated for us a new and living way, that with boldness we may enter into the holy place, through the blood of Jesus Christ: Dispose us to come to Thee at Thy call, and to worship at thy footstool, in his name and as his disciples. Thou art greatly to be feared in the assemblies of Thy saints, and to be had in reverence of all those who approach Thy throne: Put Thy fear into our hearts, that with reverence we may serve Thee. Dispose us to draw nigh to Thee with our hearts, and not only with our lips; and to worship Thee, who art a spirit, in spirit and in truth. Let thy word be read and heard by us as truly the word of God. Give us attentive and hearing ears, believing and understanding hearts, that we may neither refuse Thy calls, nor disregard Thy mercy, nor slight Thy counsels and reproofs. Write Thy laws on our minds and on our hearts, that we may be in all things taught of God. Let Thy word be lively and powerful, a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart; let it cast down vain imaginations, and every high thing that advance th itself against the knowledge of God, and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. Let it dispose us to magnify Thee with thanksgiving, and to triumph in Thy praise; to rejoice in Thy salvation, and to glory in Thy holy name.

O Lord open Thou our lips, and let our mouths shew forth Thy praise: And let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

## (First Lesson.)

HE THAT COVERETH HIS SINS SHALL NOT PROSPER, BUT WHOSO CONFESSETH AND FORSAKETH THEM SHALL FIND MERCY.

O MOST holy and righteous, but merciful and gracious God, who hatest all iniquity, and hast appointed death to be the punishment, but yet hast compassion upon the creatures whom Thou hast made, and for

the glory of Thy mercy hast sent Thy Son to be the Saviour of the world, and by him hast promised the forgiveness of their sins to all those who believe in him, and by true repentance turn unto Thee: We confess that we have erred and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep, and have turned every one his way. Thou madest us, and not we ourselves, we are Thy children and the sheep of Thy pasture; we ought, therefore, to have given ourselves up to Thee, and have glorified Thee with our bodies and spirits, which are Thine. Whatever we did should have been done to Thy glory; and to please Thee by obeying Thy will. But we have displeased and dishonoured Thee; exalting, seeking, and pleasing ourselves .- Thou art the King of all the earth; and Thy laws are holy, just and good: Yet we have not paid Thee the due submission of obedient subjects, but, unruly and selfwilled, have made provision to fulfil the lusts of the flesh; we have stumbled at Thy law through unbelief, and have not fully placed our hope and confidence in Thee.—Thou art infinite love and goodness; yet have we not made Thee our chief portion, nor loved Thee with our heart and soul and might. But we have inordinately loved ourselves; and the world, and the things of the world, have engaged too much of our concern.-Thou hast been a kind and gracious Master, but we have been negligent and slothful servants; yielding to temptations, ashamed of our duty, and wasters of our precious time. We have not with due

reverence drawn near to Thee, and honoured as we ought Thy name, Thy worship, and Thy day. We have been often guilty of not loving our neighbours as ourselves; nor have we done to others, as we would they should do to us, or studied to do good to all according to our ability. We have sinned secretly and openly, in thought, word, and deed, presumptuously as well as ignorantly, against thy precepts, promises, and threats, against our own consciences, purposes, and expectations; while we were hastening to death and judgment, for which through all our lives we ought to have prepared.—Thou hast even commended Thy wonderful love in giving Thy Son for sinners; to. reconcile them to Thee while they were enemies by wicked works. Thou hast sent Thy messengers to invite us to come in, to preach to us the glad tidings of the gospel, and freely to offer us pardon and life through Jesus Christ. O suffer us not to make light of it, and neglect this great salvation; rejecting his holy doctrine and example, resisting his spirit, ministers, and word.

Have mercy upon us, O God, according to the multitude of Thy mercies. Heal our souls that have sinned against Thee, and enter not into judgment with Thy servants. Hide Thy face from our sins, and blot out our iniquities. Turn us, O God of our salvation, and cause Thy face to shine upon us. Give us repentance unto newness of life, create in us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us; give us the

spirit of Thy son's gospel; enlighten our understandings, that we may know the wonderful things of Thy law, the measure of Thy love in Christ, and the glory of the inheritance of the saints in light, that we may be brought to hate every false way, and to approve only the things which are excellent. Cause us to seek first Thy kingdom and its righteousness; to lay up our treasures in heaven, and have our hearts and conversations there. Cause us to live by faith, and to look at the things which are unseen; and to use the world as not abusing it, seeing that the fashion of it passeth away. Let us study in all things to please and to be acceptable to Thee, not seeking our own wills, but the will of Him that hath called us; as He is holy, so may we be holy in all manner of conversation. Dispose us to love one another, with pure hearts, fervently; and to do good unto all men as we have opportunity. Give us also the grace to walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise; in patience and self-denial, in purity and temperance possessing our souls; and being zealous of every good work. And though we must be tempted, in this world of error and sin, do Thou help us to overcome, and be faithful unto the death; and then may we receive the crown of life, which Thou hast promised to them that love Thee, by Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour; in whose comprehensive words we sum up our requests, saying, as he taught his disciples, Our Father, (From Baxter's Reformed Liturgy.) &c. Amen.

#### IV.

## Litany, or General Prayer.

IN EVERY THING BY PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION, WITH THANKSGIVING, LET YOUR REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN UNTO GOD.

O most holy blessed and glorious God, the Creator and Governor of the world, the Father of angels and men, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who came to redeem the world from its vain conversation by his holy doctrine, perfect precepts, and excellent example; by his obedience unto death to purchase unto himself the glorious privilege of publishing to the penitent of all nations the forgiveness of their sins; and by his resurrection to exhibit a pattern and a pledge of the future resurrection of all men, that all may be judged according to their works; we beseech Thee to hear our prayers, and have mercy upon us, unworthy sinners; cast us not out when we come to Thee, confirm our faith, and accept our repentance, that being justified and made the children of God, we may have peace with Thee through our Lord Jesus Christ, according to his gracious promise.

Let the holy spirit of his gospel dwell in us, and sanctify us throughout that we may be new creatures; let it be in us the spirit of adoption, and the seal and earnest of our glorious inheritance; and may we know that we are Thine, and that Thou abidest in us, by the spirit of holiness which Thou has given us.

As Thy name, O Lord, is holy, and Thy glory covereth the heavens, so let the earth be filled with Thy praise. Let our souls ever magnify Thy name, and our tongues extol Thee. Let us speak of the glorious honour of Thy Majesty; of Thy greatness, power, and glorious kingdom; of Thy wisdom, holiness, truth, and righteousness; of Thy goodness, mercy, and wondrous works. Let all flesh bless Thy holy name for ever and ever.

Let the desire of our souls be to Thy name; cause us to love Thee with all our hearts, to fear Thee and to trust in Thy name, to delight in and be satisfied with Thee, and whatever we do, to do it to Thy glory.

Keep us from inordinate self love; from pride, vain glory, and hypocrisy; and from dishonouring Thy name, Thy word, or Thy service. Make us heartily and entirely Thy subjects, believing that Thou art, and that Thou art the rewarder of them that diligently seek Thee. Keep us from impiety and disobedience, from unbelief, and sensuality; from security and presumption, from distrust and despair.

Let us study to please Thee in all things. Let Thy law be written in our hearts, and let us delight to do Thy will; let our faith and lives be ruled by Thy word, which is able to make wise unto salvation; let us love and search that we may understand it, and meditate in it day and night.

Let us not please ourselves or others against Thee, nor be led by the wisdom or desires of the world, nor though carelessness, rashness, or presumption, in any wise to offend Thee.

Let us never take Thy holy name in vain, but use it in truth and reverence; keep us from blasphemy, perjury, and profaneness; from carelessness in the presence of the God of truth, from irreverent words or thoughts of Thee, and from neglecting or abusing Thy worship or Thy word.

Help us to keep holy the Lord's day, in remembrance of the blessed work of redemption completed in his glorious resurrection. Let us reverently attend Thee in public worship, obediently receive Thy word, and fervently call upon Thy name: delight ourselves in thanksgivings and joyful praises; and together with our households serve Thee within Thy gates, and not abuse this holy day.

Let parents bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; diligently instructing them in Thy holy word, and talking of it when they are in their house, and when they walk by the way, and when they lie down, and when they rise up; and let children love, honour, and obey their parents, that they may have the benefit of Thine especial promise. Let husbands and wives love each other, and dwell together in purity, peace, and holiness. Let Masters

rule their servants in Thy fear, remembering that they also have a Master in heaven; and let Servants be obedient with reverence and singleness of heart, as to the Lord; from Him also looking for their reward.

Keep us all from violence, and injury towards our neighbour; from malice, reviling, and unadvised anger: Let us not render evil for evil, but bear with one another's infirmities; and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Keep us from all impurity of mind, and from all occasions and appearances thereof. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of our mouth, but such only as is good, and useful for edification.

Keep us from fraud and oppression, and from wronging our neighbour in his person or estate.

Keep us from false witness, lying, or deceit; from unjust or uncharitable censure or reproach; from all perversion of judgment, or injury to our neighbour's reputation.

Keep us from envy, and a spirit of covetousness, from seeking our own to the injury of others, but let us love our neighbour as ourselves, and do to others as we would that they should do to us.

Teach us to love the Lord Jesus Christ, and his holy image in his obedient servants, with a peculiar and special love; but also to love our enemies, and pray for them that hate us, and do good unto all men as we have opportunity.

Cause us with patience to submit to thy disposals, and wait Thy end; and keep us from all impatient murmurings, from discontent and arrogant reasonings against Thy holy will.

Teach us to depend upon Thee for our daily bread, in the lawful use of the means to obtain it. Deliver us, if it please Thee, from such distresses, griefs, and sicknesses, as might unseasonably take us off from Thy service; but above all, teach us to value and redeem our time, and so to work while it is called to-day, that we may never be surprised by an unprepared-for death.

Keep us from intemperance, sloth, and idleness, from inordinate desires of pleasure or abundance; but, having food and raiment, may be therewith content.

Keep us from running into temptations; suffer them not to corrupt our Judgments, Wills, Affections, or Behaviour. Cause us to maintain a diligent and constant watch over our thoughts and hearts, our senses and appetites, our words and actions. Deliver us from the snares of prosperity and adversity; let us not be drawn from Thee to sin by the pleasures, profits, or honours of the world; strengthen us against afflictions; let us not forsake Thee in the hour of trial, but account the sufferings of this present time unworthy to be compared with the glory to be revealed.

We ask all this of Thee, O Lord, for Thou art the

Universal King, holy and just, to whom it belongeth in righteousness to judge the world, and to save Thy people. Of Thee, and through Thee, and unto Thee, are all things; to Thee be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (From Baxter's Reformed Liturgy.)

### V.

How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! praise waiteth for Thee, O God, and unto Thee shall the vow be performed!—God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of Thy people, and to be had in reverence by all those who approach His throne.—Give unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the earth, give unto the Lord glory and praise: give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name. Bring an offering of grateful hearts, and come into His courts with thanksgiving.

O God who art supremely happy in Thyself, and needest not the services of any of Thy creatures; before whom the highest angels bow, and whom the whole host of heaven worshipeth, crying aloud with solemn reverence, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty, who wast, who art, and who art to come. Though less than the least of these Thy glorious works, we rejoice that we also are permitted to come into Thy presence, and to hold communion with Thee, the Lord our Maker. Amidst the various branches of Thy family, and objects of Thy fatherly care, we desire to draw near unto Thee with the spirit which becomes Thy children. O do Thou assist

us, by the influence of Thy grace, to worship Thee, who art a spirit, in spirit and in truth; to celebrate Thy perfections with becoming reverence; to acknowledge, with grateful hearts, our entire dependence upon Thee; to confess our sins with unfeigned sorrow, and earnestly to implore that mercy and forgiveness, which Thou hast promised by Jesus Christ on repentance and amendment of life. May our thoughts be composed, our affections elevated, and our hearts deeply impressed with a sense of Thine awful presence: may we feel a divine life and energy accompany these sacred duties; and may we shew forth the praise of Thy goodness in their appointment, not only by the services of our lips here, but by the constant and cheerful obedience of our lives.

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord our strength and our redeemer. Amen.

# General Prayer.

O Lord, Thou hast searched us and known us, Thou knowest our down-sitting and our up-rising, Thou understandest our thoughts afar off, Thou compasseth our path and our lying down, and are acquainted with all our ways; for there is not a word on our tongues, but lo, O Lord, Thou knowest it altogether. Whither shall we go from Thy spirit? or

whither shall we flee from Thy presence? If we could ascend up into heaven, Thou art there,-if we make our bed in the grave, behold Thou art there: if we say, surely the darkness shall cover us, even the night shall be light about us. Yea the darkness hideth not from Thee, but the night is as open as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to Thee .- How precious also are Thy thoughts of kindness and acts of mercy unto us; how great is the sum of them! What praise is due to that glorious name which hath called us into being, and formed us for virtue and happiness: to that watchful Providence which hath attended us all our days, and to that gracious Hand who hath supplied our daily wants, and crowned us with loving kindness and with tender mercy! the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits. Above all what praise is due for those mercies which are spiritual and divine! Adored be Thy name, O Lord, that the sun of righteousness hath arisen, to give light to them that sate in darkness, and in the shadow of death, and to guide the feet of Thy servants into the way of peace. Adored be Thy name for the valuable and important truths which have been taught us by Jesus Christ; for the perfect example which he hath set before us; and for the gracious promises of pardon and acceptance which he hath been commissioned to make, on our faith, repentance, and newness of life. Glory be to Thee, O Father of life, that by him our prospects are extended beyond the grave;

that he hath brought life and immortality to light; that by his death he hath destroyed the power and dread of death, and by his resurrection raised us to a lively hope of an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that can never fade away.

O gracious God and most merciful Father, it becometh us to confess with deep humility our great unworthiness of these Thy favours. We have departed from the way of Thy commandments; we have followed the devices of our own hearts; we have exposed ourselves to Thy just displeasure; and our only hope is in Thy mercy. We would humbly bow before Thee imploring Thy pardon. Be not strict to mark or severe to punish our offences; O Lord, have mercy on the work of Thy hands. Spare us, good Lord; forgive and accept Thy people, according to Thy promises to the truly penitent, by Jesus Christ Thy well beloved Son.

O Lord, enable us to forsake every evil way, to correct what is wrong in our temper and conduct, and to delight henceforth in doing Thy will; that we may obtain from Thee, the God of all mercy, the forgiveness of our past sins, and an inheritance among them that are sanctified through faith in Christ Jesus.

We beseech Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, to give us worthy apprehensions of Thyself, the one only living and true God. Possess our souls with an habitual veneration of Thine excellent greatness, and a thankful admiration of Thine infinite goodness

and mercy. Dispose us to maintain a constant sense of Thy presence, and to act as becometh those who are accountable for their whole conduct unto Thee, who hast appointed a day in which Thou wilt judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom Thou hast ordained, whereof Thou hast given assurance unto all men, in that thou hast raised him from the dead.

O Thou great searcher of hearts, who lovest truth and hatest iniquity, as Thou hast blessed us with the glorious light of the gospel, may we walk as becometh children of the light. Professing the name of Jesus Christ, may we feel the power of his religion on our hearts. Cleanse us from all hypocrisy and guile, and endue us with that simplicity and godly sincerity, which alone can give us confidence towards Thee. Let it be our desire and delight, through the whole of our lives, to imitate the example of our Master Jesus Christ, and to go about doing good. Putting away lying, may we speak the truth in love, and manifest ourselves to be the sincere disciples of Christ by loving one another.

While we remain in this world, enable us to perform the duties of the stations in which Thy providence may place us. Make us thankful for every blessing we enjoy; and if Thou see fit to exercise us with affliction, enable us meekly to acquiesce in the appointment. May tribulation work out patience, and patience experience, and experience hope, a hope that maketh not ashamed. May we make it our chief

concern to improve all events, as the means of rendering us wiser and better; and whenever it shall please Thee, the disposer of life and death, to put an end to this our present state, may we have a humble but encouraging hope of Thy final acceptance, and of a happy admission into Thy heavenly and everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

#### VI.

# General Prayer.

LET US PRAY IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AFTER THE MANNER IN WHICH HE TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES.

O Almighty Father, merciful and gracious, who formedst us in Thine own image, and hast tenderly fed and provided for us all our days; who art also our Father by a more excellent mercy, having granted us the adoption of children by our Lord Jesus Christ; dispose us, we beseech Thee, to perform the duty of children, that we may never lose our title to so glorious an inheritance. O let this excellent name, by which Thou hast vouchsafed to be related to us, be our glory and confidence, our defence and guard, our ornament and strength, at once our dignity and motive to obedience,—the principle of a holy fear of Thee our Father, and of love to Thee and to our brethren of mankind, as partakers of the same hope and dignity with ourselves.—Unite us all to each other in the bands of holiness and love; let there be no more names of division, or titles of error and party; let not us, who are brethren, contend, but in giving honour to each other and glory to Thee; being earnest for the faith, but not to the breach of charity, or the denying of each

other's hopes: Grant, rather, that we may all join in promoting the honour of Thee our Father; and in celebrating the name, extending the family, and propagating the institutions, of Christ our Elder Brother: may we earnestly desire, and labour for, the inheritance to which Thou hast given us a title, by adopting us into the dignity of children, and enabling us to cry, "Abba, Father, who art in heaven!"

"Hallowed be Thy name;" for Thy name alone is glorious, and in it is our confidence and hope. They that love Thy name shall be joyful in Thee; all they that love Thy name shall put their trust in Thee. Thou art worthy, O Lord, of honour and praise and glory for ever and ever. We confess Thy glories, we rejoice in Thy mercies, we hope in Thy name; let Thy name be praised unto the ends of the world; let it be believed by faith, relied upon with hope, and loved with an abundant gratitude.

Thus may "Thy kingdom come!" and as Thou reignest in heaven and in earth, do Thou rule also in our hearts; advance the interests of religion; let the glorious gospel of Thy Son be known in all the regions of the earth; and let all the nations come to worship Thee the Father Almighty, submit to the obedience of Jesus Christ, and conform their wills to his holy laws. May he rule, in our understandings by faith, in our wills by charity, in our passions by restraint and right direction, and in all our ways by obedience to his precepts. And when Thy

kingdom within us hath flourished, and is advanced to the height for which Thou hast designed it, grant that Thy kingdom of glory may succeed, and we Thy servants be admitted to the purity, peace, and happiness of that state, where Thou reignest alone, and art all in all.

To this end may "Thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven!" Thy will is the measure of holiness, peace, and love; let it also be the measure of our desires: for we know that whatever Thou sayest is true, and whatever thou doest is good.—Grant that we may submit our wills to Thine; being patient of evils which Thou inflictest, grateful for all the good which Thou sendest; haters of the evil which Thou forbiddest, lovers and doers of the good which Thou commandest; that as angels in heaven, so we on earth, may obey Thy will with all our faculties; may serve Thee with pure hearts, fervently, with peace, and concord, and love unfeigned; with one heart and with one voice glorifying Thee our heavenly Father.

If it please Thy wisdom and goodness, "give us this day our daily bread." Thou, Lord, who hast placed us in this state, best knowest what is needful and proper for us in it. We presume not, therefore, to pray, either as to poverty or riches; but that Thou wilt feed us with food convenient for us, according to that condition in which Thou hast placed each of us; that in want we may not be tempted to evil, nor in riches to wantonness or pride, nor set our affections too strongly

upon any thing in this world; but that we may use it as strangers and pilgrims, for the relief of our need and the support of our infirmity, during our passage through it to our heavenly abode. Take from Thy servants all abject carefulness and mean distrust; and whatever may be our proportion of temporal things, enable us with comfort to do our duty.

And O do Thou, most gracious Father, "forgive us our trespasses" and sins. Look upon us with the eye of that compassion which Thou hast manifested by Christ Jesus, for we have sinned against Thee. Pardon the inherent imperfection of our lives, the weakness of our duty, the carelessness of our spirits; give us the grace to see, acknowledge, and rectify, our affected ignorance, our negligence and rashness, our pride and presumption.

Be pleased also to give us unfeigned charity, that we may truly "forgive all who trouble or offend us;" that by this character Thou mayest discern us to be Thy children and servants, disciples of the meek and forgiving Jesus.

Give us also grace, O Lord, to flee from all occasions of sin; that we may never tempt ourselves, nor run into the way of temptation; and O may Thy gracious providence so order the events and circumstances of our lives, that we may not be "led into temptation;" and whenever Thou shalt suffer us to enter into trial, be Thou on our side to keep us from falling, that we may not fear what man can do unto

us, or any thing into which our own proneness to evil might otherwise betray us. May we endure faithfully, and persevere unto the end, that we may receive the crown of life, which Thou hast promised by Jesus Christ, to those who love and serve Thee.

We beseech Thee to "deliver us from all evil;" and if Thou see it needful that we endure afflictions, do Thou teach us to consider them as the chastisements of a Father; and let them be for good to us, and not for evil,—to purify our minds from earthly attachments, and to fix them on things divine and heavenly; that we Thy servants may, in Thine own due time, be found meet to be admitted, under Christ our Master and Head, to celebrate the mightiness of Thy "kingdom, the power" of Thy majesty, and "the glory" of Thy mercy, world without end.

We ask all in his name, and as his disciples, who taught us thus to pray unto Thee: and for all the bounties of Thy providence, and all the blessings of Thy grace, especially for him who brought life and immortality to light, we would offer to Thee, O Heavenly Father, everlasting praises. Amen.

(From Bishop Jeremy Taylor's Paraphrase on the Lord's Prayer.)

### VII.

O COME LET US RISE AND PRAY TO OUR FATHER, AND SAY UNTO HIM, FATHER, WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST HEAVEN AND IN THY SIGHT, AND ARE NOT WORTHY TO BE CALLED THY CHILDREN.

O God, our heavenly Father, who has sent Thy son Jesus Christ to reconcile Thy erring guilty children unto Thyself, and to bless mankind by turning them from their iniquities, we desire to acknowledge with humble, penitent, and contrite hearts, that we have not been duly sensible of our manifold obligations, but have made an ungrateful return for all Thy favours. Under a deep sense of our ingratitude, unworthiness, and disobedience, it is a great support and comfort to our minds, that Thou art too just and good to reject the sincere endeavours of Thy creatures to reform, and that Thou hast sent thy son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, and to declare to us the terms of Thy forgiveness and favour. In his name, therefore, would we present ourselves before Thee, and as his disciples entreat of Thee, to pardon whatever Thou hast seen amiss, from the beginning of our lives unto this day. Forgive, O Lord, every thought of our minds disagreeable to Thy nature and precepts, every word of our mouths unworthy of men or of Christians, every instance of our behaviour displeasing

to Thee or to our own consciences, every offence, of whatever sort or degree, against Thee, our neighbour, or ourselves. Forgive us all the sins which we can now call to our remembrance; and forgive us likewise all those which, though forgotten by us, are still known to Thee, with all their circumstances and aggravations. Pardon us, O Lord, according to Thy own abundant goodness, and to the declarations of Thy grace by Thy Son Jesus Christ, and grant us that forgiveness which we neither ask nor can expect, but on the terms and conditions laid down to us in the gospel. Dispose us, therefore, to forgive all those who may have offended or injured us; and to be as truly disposed to make reparation for any injuries or neglects we may have ourselves committed, as we are to intreat Thy favour to ourselves. And as we are sensible that we can expect no forgiveness without amendment of life, may we seriously renounce whatever is displeasing to Thee, and make it our great endeavour to correct every thing that has been amiss in our past temper and behaviour, and bring ourselves still nearer to Thy holiness. And give success, we earnestly beseech Thee, by Thy gracious favour and providence, to these purposes and desires of our souls, and accept these public expressions of them, through Thine infinite mercy manifested by Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who hath taught us, when we pray, to say,

Our Father, &c.

After the Lessons from the Old Testament, let the following Form of Thanksgiving and Petition be read.

O God, the Maker and Governor of the world, who art perfect in every thing truly great and lovely, we appear before Thee under the deepest sense of Thy perfections, and of our own great imperfections and failings. We know that Thou art far exalted above all that we can express or conceive; that Thy mercies are above all our thanks; and that Thine unchangeable attributes stand in no need of our homage: but it becomes us to acknowledge and celebrate that perfect power and holiness, adorned with infinite goodness, and guided by unerring wisdom, which are in themselves worthy of our highest admiration and praise, as well as the foundation of all the happiness that we can enjoy or hope for.

Accept, O Lord, the tribute of our unfeigned thanks, for the manifold experience we have had of Thy loving kindness, and the many marks we have received of Thine undeserved favour. To Thee we owe our being, and all our faculties and powers; that we are made capable of knowing Thee, the Author of all good, of imitating Thee, the Original of all perfection, and of enjoying Thy favour, the foundation of lasting happiness.

It becomes us to remember, likewise, with the highest gratitude, that, to secure and carry forward

this gracious end of our creation, it hath pleased Thy goodness to send thy Son into the world, to teach and live and die, that he might save us from our sins, and conduct us effectually to true and everlasting happiness. We bless Thee for the divine instructions which he hath given to his followers for obtaining eternal life; for the perfect example of holiness and patience, which he hath set before us; for his humbling himself even unto death in obedience to Thy will; and for his plain declarations of Thy gracious acceptance of all such as sincerely receive him as their Master, and endeavour to know and comply with the terms of his gospel. We bless Thee for the mighty evidences that he was truly sent from Thee, by the purity of his doctrine, the integrity of his life, the number of his miracles, and the glory of his resurrection; by his ascension into heaven; and by his pouring down from thence the gifts of the Holy Spirit, for the propagation of his religion and the settlement of his church. We bless Thee that the joyful sound of the gospel hath reached this part of the world; that it hath been reformed, by the favour of Thy good Providence, from many of the abuses under which it long laboured, and that we have the privilege of studying it as it is contained in the holy scriptures; by which we may become more assured of the true way to happiness, more fully engaged to follow after it, and more likely to obtain greater degrees of it, if we be not wanting to ourselves.

We would also offer our unfeigned thanks for all the mercies of Thy Providence: for all those temporal blessings and conveniencies by which thou hast made our passage through this world more comfortable and easy; for the use of our reason and understanding; for that measure of health and ease which we have enjoyed; for our preservation from a variety of dangers, more than we can number or are acquainted with; for the supports of friendship and society; for the comforts of food, raiment, and habitation; and particularly that we have been instructed in the principles of true religion, and led to the knowledge of useful and important truths; as by these means we enjoy still greater opportunities of advancing yet further in the paths of virtue, and of adding an increase of our happiness in the world to come.

What can we render unto Thee, O Lord, worthy of all these instances of thy favour? We praise and magnify Thy glorious name; and acknowledge ourselves under the strictest obligations to live and act in all respects, as becometh those, who have tasted so largely of Thy loving kindness. We would profess before Thee our hearty resolution of endeavouring so to do; and would offer up our sincere desire, that by the consideration of what we have now remembered before Thee, we may be led to make returns in some degree suitable to so many and so great instances of Thy goodness.

And now, O Lord, according to the same good-

ness, graciously receive the petitions, which we offer unto Thee for every good that is fit for us.

O let the serious consideration of that grace and mercy, which hath appeared in the gospel of Jesus Christ, effectually lead us to all the good ends proposed by it. Let the holy precepts of that perfect institution, by which we profess to be guided, and the spotless example of that great Master, whose followers we desire to be accounted, engage us to live in all respects as becometh the gospel. Particularly, let the peculiar genius of that gospel, and the leading virtues of its great Author, influence us to cultivate universal charity; to rejoice in all opportunities of doing good, either to the bodies or souls of men; to stoop to the lowest offices of kindness, and to be ever willing to condescend and yield for the good of others; that so the purest humility, and the most extensive charity, may adorn every action and circumstance of our lives, and all pride and passion and uncharitableness may be checked and subdued by the power of religion. Let the sense of our own imperfections and failings dispose us to interpret favourably the actions of others, and to forgive their offences against ourselves: and let the sense of Thy goodness in allowing us still time for correcting our errors, and for perfecting our souls in all that is praiseworthy, induce to study more constantly and uniformly to please and imitate Thee.

Our outward condition it is our happiness and duty to submit to Thy will. But as Thou hast ordained us to belong to this world, as well as to expect another, we beg, with humble and devout submission, such a portion of the good things of life as Thou shalt see to be best for us: and as we have already experienced in the world some disappointments, losses, and afflictions, we implore Thy gracious regard and Fatherly affection, that if it be consistent with Thy wise and gracious Providence, Thou wouldst secure us from sad accidents and calamitous events, from tormenting pains and grievous diseases, and from every thing inconsistent with such a happiness as may lawfully be desired in this world. Nevertheless, not as we will, but as Thou wilt: and if Thine unerring wisdom should otherwise determine, inspire us with zeal to imitate the patience of our great Master, and with rational submission to all Thy dispensations. And let the sense of Thy gracious design in all our afflictions lead us to the true and right use of them, -to disengage our affections more and more from this world, and to seek for happiness in a better and neverchanging state.

Let the consideration of the certainty of death influence us to endeavour to make it happy, by such a virtuous life as may give us a well-grounded hope in Thy mercy. And let the prospect of glory and happiness hereafter exalt our minds above any fond regard to this state of sin and misery; and enable us to act in a manner becoming those, who truly believe that life and immortality are brought to light by the gospel.

Finally, O Lord, our great and chief request is, that by the disposals of thy good Providence, we may attain everlasting happiness hereafter; and that our state in this world may be so ordered as most effectually to secure our eternal and greatest good. Deny to us, therefore, out of Thy great goodness, whatever may be truly evil, though we should be so weak as to desire and wish for it; and grant unto us every real good, though we should be so blind as not to see and ask it. As far as our petitions are reasonable and agreeable to Thy holy will, so far we entreat Thy favourable consent to them; as far as they are not, so far we would utterly renounce them: and in a sense of our own imperfections, would pray Thee to accept the sincerity of our hearts, and overlook and supply the defects of our services.

All we beg as the disciples of Jesus Christ; and in his name ascribe unto Thee, our Heavenly Father, everlasting praises. *Amen*.

(From Bishop Hoadly's Large Form of Prayer.)

#### VIII.

GIVE THANKS ALWAYS FOR ALL THINGS TO GOD, EVEN THE FATHER, IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

ALMIGHTY GOD, and most merciful Father! the maker, preserver, and governor of all things; who neglectest nothing that Thou hast made. In Thy hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind. Thou givest food unto all flesh; and we observe, with admiration, the suitable provision Thou hast made for the support and comfort of all Thy wanting creatures.

We desire to be at all times very sensible of, and to rejoice in, our own state of dependence on Thee; for we also are the work of Thy hands, and under the care of Thy Providence. O may we never fail to glorify Thee, in whose hand our life and breath are, and whose are all our ways!

Deeply impressed with this conviction, we desire to unite in grateful acknowledgments of Thy manifold and great benefits to us. We praise Thee for the gift and preservation of life; for the wonderful and useful frame of our bodies, for the excellence and soundness of the capacities of our minds, for that measure of health which Thy 300d Providence continueth to us, and for the many comforts which flow from its enjoy-

ment. We thank Thee for a daily supply of many things needful for our support and conducive to our delight.

We gratefully acknowledge the kindness of Thy Providence in all the comforts and services we derive from society, neighbourhood, and friendship; for the daily endearments of relative affections, and the mutual good offices resulting from our domestic connections one with another; and also for the security to our persons and properties, together with the other manifold and great advantages we enjoy by means of our situation in this land of religious and civil liberty, and of the protection we receive from the equitable constitution and good government under which we live. Surely, the lines are fallen to us in pleasant places, and we have a goodly heritage. Blessed be the Lord, who hath shewn us so largely of His goodness in the land of the living.

But, above all, would we praise Thee, with our whole hearts, for Thy great mercy manifested to mankind by Thy Son Jesus Christ; whom Thou hast given, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. We thank Thee for the heavenly instructions, the holy precepts, and the exceeding great and precious promises delivered to us in the gospel. We thank Thee for the benefit of our Lord's excellent and persuasive doctrines; his amiable and perfect pattern; his plain and profitable institutions, his exemplary obedience, even unto

death; for his glorious resurrection, which is a pattern and assurance of that resurrection which he hath promised to us; and for his triumphant ascension, now to appear in the presence of God for us. Having such an high-priest over the house of God, we would at all times draw near to Thee, our Father in heaven, with pure hearts, in full assurance of faith; believing that Thou art a bountiful rewarder of all them that diligently seek Thee.

May it be the earnest desire of our hearts, and our continual endeavour, to walk worthy of the holy vocation wherewith we are called, as the children of Thee, our God and Father, and the disciples of Thy holy and beloved Son Christ Jesus. To which end dispose us diligently to read and consider, and enable us to understand, the word of Thy truth, especially the gospel of our Lord Jesus. May we receive the good seed of Thy heavenly word in the love of it, cherish it in good and honest hearts, and bring forth the proper fruits of it in all holy dispositions, and in a sober, righteous, and godly conversation.

Incline us to reverence and love Thee above all things; and to maintain a continual regard to Thine authority and inspection over us: to rejoice in our dependence on Thy government; to be satisfied with Thy disposals, thankful for Thy mercies, patient under Thy corrections, confiding in Thy promises, that all things shall work together for good to them that love Thee. In all the events and employments of life may

we set Thee, the Lord, always before us; making Thy perfections the ground of our confidence, Thy precepts the guides of our conduct, Thy promises the rejoicing of our hearts; and the hope of Thine acceptance, and of glory, honour, and immortality in Thy heavenly kingdom, our animating motives to a patient continuance in all well-doing. And O! that there may be such an heart in us, that we may fear Thee, and love Thee, and keep all Thy commandments always, that it may be well with us!

Assist us to cherish all kind and good affections towards all men; and to suppress and root out of our hearts all bitterness, envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness. Enable us to maintain, at all times, truth in our words, sincerity in our professions, faithfulness to our engagements, and integrity and uprightness in all our dealings. Whatsoever we would that men should do unto us, may we do even so unto them, in serious expectation of Thy righteous judgment, wherein there will be no respect of persons.

Animate us with a spirit of unconfined love and good-will, that we may be ready to do good and to communicate, as we have ability and opportunity, to whomsoever we can serve or oblige. Especially may we never fail in sincere gratitude to our friends and benefactors; and as we hope that Thou, our most merciful Father, wilt forgive us our sins, if we be penitent, may we also, from the heart, forgive those who have offended or injured us, when they turn to

us; in the mean time guarding against malice, and forbearing revenge. May we be always ready to perform with cheerfulness all good offices towards our neighbours and acquaintance; and if it please Thee, make us instruments of Thy gracious providence for real benefits to those among whom we dwell.

We farther beseech Thee, O most pure and holy God, the Father of our spirits, to enable us to purify ourselves from all corruption of flesh and spirit, and to perfect holiness in Thy fear. May we continually preserve a due government over our affections and passions, be watchful against all pride, vain-glory, and hypocrisy, and suppress all foolish opinions and hurtful lusts. May we regulate our spirits by humility and meekness, keep our bodies in purity and temperance, and use the good things of this world as not abusing them; but so as that we may give a good account of them to our own reflections at present, and to the final Judge. May we be prudent and circumspect in our conduct, contented in our lot, industrious in our callings, and both in our present and every future station of life, maintain consciences void of offence towards God and towards man; that we may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

May we at all times consider seriously, and feel the powerful influences of the prospects set before us by the gospel of Thy Son Jesus Christ. Firmly persuaded of the truth of all Thy promises delivered by him, may we behave as pilgrims and strangers upon earth, where we have no continuing city; but seek for a better country, even an heavenly one, a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. May the supreme desires of our hearts, and our unwearied endeavours, concur with the methods of Thy providence and grace, to complete our meetness for the inheritance prepared for us.

Finally, O Thou Father of all the families upon earth, we commit ourselves unto Thee in our domestic capacity and family relations. Be Thou the guardian of our common interests; bestow upon us all needful supplies and blessings, and protect us from real evil. Assist us all to discharge the duties we severally owe one to another, as the servants of God our common master in heaven. With kind affections one towards another, may we mutually share in prosperity and adversity, and be helpful one to another in every temporal and eternal interest. May we live in our several families in love and peace, and may the God of love and peace dwell with us; and, in the end, make us all sharers in eternal life and happiness, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now unto him who is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy; to the Only Wise God, our Saviour by Jesus Christ, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, now and ever. *Amen*.

### IX.

HEAR OUR VOICE, O LORD, ACCORDING TO THY LOVING-KINDNESS; QUICKEN THOU US ACCORDING TO THY WORD.

Almighty and ever-living God, who art greatly to be feared, and worthy to be had in the highest reverence in the assemblies of Thy saints, and by all those who are happy in a sense of their dependence upon Thee: under the most awful sense of the glories of Thy nature and the majesty of Thy kingdom, we, Thy unworthy servants, desire at this time to bow down before Thee, and to worship at Thy footstool. Look mercifully upon us, we intreat Thee, from heaven, the habitation of Thy holiness, and enable us to present ourselves before Thee with that sincerity and truth, which Thou requirest in all those who approach Thy throne. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer!

Thou art the High and Lofty One, who inhabitest eternity; and art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity! Yet though Thou art high, Thou hast respect unto the lowly; and hast declared, that unto this man Thou wilt look, even unto him that trembleth at Thy word. Incline Thine ear unto our prayer, O Lord; and hearken unto the voice of our

supplication, for unto Thee would we cry, O our King and our God!

Enlighten our minds, O Lord, with the knowledge of Thy word. Incline us to a constant and dutiful attention to all Thy holy commandments. Awaken us faithfully to search our hearts, and to try our ways. Lead us to understand the errors of our lives; that we may be truly humbled under a sense of our offences, and put away the evil of our doings from Thee; and assist us, we beseech Thee, so to bring forth the fruits which are meet for repentance, that we may have peace with Thee, through our Lord Jesus Christ, and rejoice in the hope of Thy glory.

Incline us, O Lord, to love Thy statutes, and may we rejoice to keep them, even unto the end. Create in us pure hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Let every sinful desire, and every evil affection, be put away far from us; and may all our thoughts and purposes be brought into subjection to Thy Divine authority. In all our ways may our eyes be unto Thee, as the God whose we are, and whom we are bound to serve; and do Thou impress upon our minds, we beseech Thee, such a conviction of the righteousness of Thy precepts, of the unspeakable obligation by which we are bound to obey Thy word, and of Thy great goodness to all those who sincerely love and serve Thee, that we may be ever fervent in fulfilling Thy pleasure, and run the way of Thy commandments with great delight. So we Thy people

will give Thee thanks for ever; we will shew forth Thy praise unto all generations!

May the love of Christ so constrain us, that we may live not unto ourselves, but unto Him that died for us, and rose again from the dead. Enable us to to discern the brightness of his example, the purity of his precepts, and the inestimable value of that glory to which he came to raise Thine unworthy creatures, that we may thankfully receive that great salvation which he hath set before us. Lead us to become his willing and obedient subjects; strengthen us to continue in his word; and let no allurements which may lie in wait to seduce us, no terrors which may set themselves in array against us, ever move us aside from our steadfastness. Let the same mind be in us, which was also in him; and may we walk worthy of the holy calling wherewith he hath called us, in all holy conversation and godliness: in all lowliness and long-suffering, in all humility and meekness; forgiving one another, and loving one another, even as he also loved us, and gave himself for us. May the hope of that eternal life, which he hath been commissioned to promise to all his faithful followers, incite us to purify ourselves, even as he is pure; and so keep us from all the corruptions that are in the world, that we may be sincere and without offence till the day of his coming.

While we remain in these earthly tabernacles, let Thine eye be over us for good; and so conduct us

through the various changes of life, as Thou seest will be most profitable for us. We rejoice that our times are in Thy hands: and amidst the darkness and uncertainty which hide future events, we would cheerfully commit ourselves to Thine ever righteous and most merciful disposal. Guard us, O Thou most compassionate Father, from every thing truly evil; and grant unto us, we beseech Thee, every real blessing. Permit no temptations to assail us, but such as we shall be enabled to bear. Preserve us from the snares of prosperity; prepare us for the shocks of adversity: and whatsoever sufferings may be allotted to us here, impart thy powerful supports under them, and give us understanding wisely to improve. Enable us dutifully to acquiesce in the most painful appointments of Thy providence; satisfied that Thou knowest, in every instance, what is best for Thy creatures: and though our trials should continue and be multiplied, help us to remain still unshaken in our devotedness to Thee, and willingly to endure all things, so that we may enjoy Thy favour. Enable us in every thing to give thanks: let faith and patience have their perfect work: and may all the light afflictions of this present world finally work out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Go before us, O Lord, and guide our ways; fit us for all Thy will: and let Thy mercy be upon us, we humbly beseech Thee, according as we hope in Thee.

So teach us to number our days, that we may

apply our hearts unto wisdom. Through all the vicissitudes of this uncertain state, enable us to look forward to that great change, towards which we are continually approaching, and to that awful day of account which is to succeed it. Let the prospect of that great revelation of Thy righteous judgment, awaken the lively concern of our hearts to be found always ready. Fix the sense of it, we earnestly beseech Thee, most gracious God, in every heart which is here before Thee; and grant, that neither the cares, nor the pleasures, nor any of the objects of this present world, may betray us into a forgetfulness of those things which belong to our peace, and cause that day to come upon us unawares. May we be sober, and watch unto prayer; may we have our loins always girt, and our lamps burning, and ourselves like unto those who look for the coming of their Lord: and whenever Thou shalt call us hence, may our end be full of peace and hope. Above all, may we obtain mercy of the Lord at the great day: and when all Thy children shall be gathered into one glorious assembly, to inherit the kingdom prepared for them, may we be found of that happy number; and enter into the joy of our Lord.

Now unto Him who is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the Only Wise God, our Saviour by Jesus Christ, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, for ever and ever.

## X.

WHEREWITH SHALL WE COME BEFORE THE LORD,
AND BOW BEFORE THE MOST HIGH GOD? HE
HATH SHEWED US WHAT IS GOOD; AND WHAT THE
LORD OUR GOD REQUIRETH: THAT WE DO JUSTLY,
LOVE MERCY, AND WALK HUMBLY BEFORE OUR
GOD.

O Lord our heavenly Father, Almighty and Eternal God; who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day; and dost graciously permit us by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, to make known our requests unto Thee: fulfil, we beseech Thee, to Thy unworthy servants, assembled before Thee at this time, Thy gracious promise that Thou will draw nigh unto all those who desire to draw nigh unto Thee. Impress our minds with a deep sense of Thine infinite excellence. Dispose us to confess our sins before Thee with that humility and true contrition which may influence our future conduct, and induce us to avoid whatever is displeasing in Thy sight. we attempt to recount Thy various mercies, may our hearts unite with our lips to shew forth Thy praise. May Thy people attend, with seriousness, candour. and meekness, to the reading and preaching of Thy holy word, and be concerned above all things to improve in the knowledge and practice of virtue and true religion. Dispose all who profess to worship Thee every where, to be sincere and earnest in their intention and purpose to serve Thee with a pure heart, and faithfully to perform Thy holy will; that they may hereafter be united together with the general society of Thy worshipping servants in heaven.—All this we humbly ask in the name, and as the disciples, of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord and Saviour; through whom we ascribe unto Thee, the Father Almighty, everlasting praises. *Amen*.

[After the reading of Psalms, and Lesson from the Old Testament, let the service proceed with the following General Prayer.]

O Lord God our heavenly Father, we, Thy unworthy servants, desire to praise Thy name for every instance of Thy goodness and loving kindness to us and to all men. We thank Thee that Thou hast brought into existence, endowed us with the powers of reason and understanding, and formed us for happiness in a future world. We adore Thee for the watchful providence by which our lives have been preserved; that by Thee we have been defended amidst those calamities and dangers, which we could neither foresee nor prevent; and that we are permitted at this time to join together in the offices of social worship.

We acknowledge ourselves indebted to thy goodness for all the blessings we have enjoyed; for the

provision which Thou hast made for the supply of our various wants; for our present ease and health; for the advantages of society and friendship; and for every circumstance and event which hath contributed to the happiness of our lives. Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with His benefits, and causeth His loving kindness to be continually manifested unto us.

Above all we bless Thee for thy favour and mercy displayed in the dispensation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We thank Thee for the perfect pattern of piety and virtue which he hath set before us; for the excellent precepts which he hath delivered; for the full and animating assurance which he hath given us of life and immortality; and from the promise of Thy Divine assistance and favour to all those who sincerely endeavour to know and to do Thy will. We praise Thee that he hath confirmed the truth and divine authority of his mission by his death and resurrection; that he is now exalted at thy right hand; and that he will come again at the last day to judge the world in righteousness, and to be glorified in all his faithful followers.

We praise Thee, above all, that Thou hast sent him into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved: that Thou hast sent him to preach remission of sins upon repentance. As his disciples we desire to confess, with humble and penitent hearts, our manifold transgressions of Thy holy laws. We have made an ungrateful return for all Thy favours; we have not rightly improved the privileges which thou hast granted us: our only hope is in Thy mercy—on Thy mercy dost Thou encourage us to hope! Lord, pardon us, Thy penitent children, according to the abundant goodness of Thy nature, and to the gracious declarations which Thou hast made by Jesus Christ. Grant us, heavenly Father, Thy divine assistance that we may forsake our sins, and ever more serve and please Thee in newness of life to the glory of Thy holy name!

O merciful God, the Father of lights and the Fountain of all wisdom, enlighten our minds with the knowledge of Thy truth; may it sink deep into our hearts, regulate our affections, and influence our conduct. May thy favour and mercy to mankind, declared by Jesus Christ, incite us to due returns of love and obedience. Forgetting the things which are behind, and reaching forth to those which are before, may we press towards the mark, for the prize of the high-calling of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Assist us in the discharge of all social and relative duties. Make us honest in our dealings, sincere in our professions, and steadfast to our engagements. May the pure and benevolent spirit of the Gospel inspire us with delight in doing good, with readiness to relieve the poor, and with compassion to all who are in distress. Dispose us to be grateful to our friends, to forgive our enemies, and to do always unto others as we would that they should do unto us.

And while we profess ourselves the disciples of Jesus Christ, may we endeavour to imitate his example. May we be supported and animated to every good work, by the hope of that life and immortality which he hath brought to light by the gospel. May we live in a state of daily improvement, and preparation for his second coming to judge the world, that he may then pronounce upon us that favourable sentence "Well done, good and faithful servants, enter ye into the joy of your Lord!"

O God, the preserver of all who fear, love, and trust in Thee, we recommend ourselves and all our concerns to the disposal of Thy gracious providence. Thou knowest what is truly good for us; and it is the source of our comfort and joy, that we are under Thy fatherly care. In humble submission to Thy will, we beseech thee to continue unto us the use of our understanding and reason, and to bless us with health of body and tranquillity of mind. Bestow upon us such a share of external things as Thou knowest will be best for us. Conduct us by Thy gracious hand through all the changes of this life; and may we at length become perfect and happy in the possession of that heavenly inheritance, which is incorruptible, and fadeth not away.

Hear us, Almighty God, in these our united petitions. Grant that by these religious services we may be more deeply impressed with reverence for Thee, with love to our brethren of mankind, with zeal for the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with a sincere concern for our religious improvement and our eternal salvation.

Assist us, we beseech Thee, in the duties which further lie before us. May we hear the instructions which shall be given from Thy word with seriousness and attention; may our minds be enlightened to discern the true way to everlasting life; and may we at length be brought to Thy heavenly kingdom, which Thou hast promised to all Thy faithful servants by Thy Son Jesus Christ.

Our Father, &c. Amen.

#### XI.

WHOSO OFFERETH PRAISE, GLORIFIETH GOD; AND TO HIM THAT ORDERETH HIS CONVERSATION ARIGHT, WILL THE LORD SHEW HIS SALVATION.

Almighty and ever-living God, we desire at all times to present ourselves before Thee, adoring Thee as a Being of incomprehensible majesty and absolute perfection, of spotless purity and strict justice, of unerring wisdom, of boundless power, of unlimited, unchangeable goodness, worthy to be feared, trusted, and loved, by all Thy reasonable creatures. We esteem it our high honour, and our chief privilege, that we have the liberty to lay open our wants and necessities before Thee, who art able to do for us exceedingly and abundantly above all that we can ask or think, or reasonably desire. We would therefore refer ourselves, and the management of all our concerns, to Thine unerring conduct, and in every thing by prayer and supplication, with fervent and devout thanksgiving, make known our requests unto Thee. O Thou great Author of mercies, O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, incline, we beseech Thee, a favourable ear unto our supplications.

We have great reason, O God, with the deepest contrition of soul, to confess before Thee our manifold sins, and heinous and aggravated provocations. We

acknowledge that we have offended against Thee our Creator and Father, our supreme and righteous Governor, and our constant benefactor. We have acted, in many instances, in a manner unworthy of our reasonable natures, and unsuitable to our character and hopes as Christians. We have sinned against heaven, even before Thee, and are not worthy to be called Thy children. But our hope and confidence is in Thy mercy, O Lord: and to encourage this hope, Thou hast declared Thy name, even to Thine ancient people, to be "The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in goodness, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin;" and Thou hast sent Thy son Jesus Christ to preach the forgiveness of sin, and hast even instituted him a mercy-seat for all mankind, to proclaim the pardon of their sins to all who repent of and forsake them. O God be merciful unto us, be merciful to us, according to Thy loving kindness, and according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies, blot out all our transgressions. And that we may become meet objects of thy pardoning grace, according to the righteous conditions of the gospel, dispose us to exercise most humble and unfeigned repentance for the errors of our past conduct; and wherein soever we have done amiss, enable us, we beseech Thee to do so no more. Make us to look upon vice and transgression with aversion and horror, as the stain and infamy of our reason, as contrary to Thy most perfect nature, and as productive

of shame and misery in the world. Create in us, O God, a pure heart, and renew a right spirit within us. Cast us not away from Thy presence; take not Thy holy spirit from us. To this end we pray Thee, cleanse Thou our hearts from all our secret faults, let them no longer have dominion over us; but may we henceforth be upright, and innocent of the great transgression of sinning against Thee: and may the words of our mouths, the meditations of our hearts, and the actions of our lives, become henceforth acceptable in Thy sight, O God, our Strength, our Redeemer and Judge.

Make us careful evermore to maintain and cultivate exalted and honourable apprehensions of Thy nature, perfections, and providence; to sanctify Thee in our hearts, and make Thee the object of our habitual and constant reverence; to love Thee with all our understanding, with all our mind, and with all our strength, as the best and most amiable of Beings. Let it ever be our highest ambition, our chief honour, and our supreme happiness, to resemble Thee in all things; to be holy as Thou art holy, merciful as Thou art merciful, and perfect, in proportion to the extent of our powers, as Thou, our Father in heaven, art perfect.

Enable us faithfully to discharge also the duties which we owe to each other, as well as the duties of piety, which we owe to Thee our God; to love mercy and delight in doing good, as well as in walking humbly before Thee; to practise impartial justice, strict integrity, generous benevolence, and tender charity and compassion, to all our fellow-creatures; to rejoice with them that rejoice, and weep with them that weep; to bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ; to learn of him to be gentle and condescending, meek and lowly of heart, and to cultivate the excellent principles of universal love and good-will according to his doctrine; that so, throughout the whole of our conduct, we may dignify our natures, and recommend our religion.

Make us strict in all the offices of self-government, and restrain our appetites within due bounds: make us sober, and chaste, and temperate in all things; remembering that Thine all-seeing eye is ever upon us, and that Thou will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

O Lord, who knowest our frame, and rememberest that we are dust, have compassion upon our frailty and infirmity, and suffer us not to be tempted beyond what we are able to bear. Let us never remove our integrity from us, nor let our hearts reproach us so long as we live; but let this be the constant matter of our rejoicing, that in simplicity and godly sincerity we have had our conversation in the world. Let the full persuasion of thy gracious disposition to accept our sincere though imperfect endeavours to serve Thee, and to answer the ends of our creation, support us

under all the revolutions and changes, under all the difficulties and calamities, under all the temptations and trials, which we may meet with in this life, and fortify us against the fears of death: and when Thou, supreme over all, shall judge the world in righteousness, by that Man whom Thou hast ordained, may we be enabled to lift up our heads before Thee, with humble confidence and joy, and have an entrance administered unto us abundantly into Thine eternal kingdom and glory.

O Father of lights, Eternal Fountain of wisdom, Giver of every good and perfect gift, what we know not do Thou teach us, what there is amiss in us help us carefully to reform, what there is good in us help us thoroughly to perfect. O God of infinite purity, deliver us from the dominion and tyranny of irregular desires, from the enslaving power of corrupt and criminal prejudices, and from the influence of evil examples. Prepare us for all the events of Thy providence concerning us; that under Thine overruling guidance and direction, we may be continually improving in all good dispositions, and that by a constant course of rational piety, and of cheerful and amiable virtue, we may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

And now, O gracious Father, we commit ourselves to Thy care and keeping. Preserve us from the evils to which we may be exposed; prosper our just and lawful undertakings, and teach us to acknowledge Thee in all our ways. Direct us by Thine unerring counsel, defend us by Thy mighty power, and provide for us by Thy never-failing goodness, while we are in this uncertain, transitory world, and after death, we humbly beseech Thee, be Thou our inheritance and exceeding great reward, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour; who hath taught when we pray to say, Our Father, &c.

(From Dr. James Foster's Offices of Devotion, Posth. Disc. Vol. II. p. 393.)

#### XII.

THE LORD IS GOOD UNTO THEM THAT WAIT UPON HIM; TO THE SOUL THAT SEEKETH HIM.

O most great and glorious God, we Thy dependent creatures would present ourselves before Thee at this time with sentiments of humility and deep veneration, adoring Thee as the One only living and true God, and the only proper Object of religious homage and worship: for Thou only art every where present to hear our supplications; and art alone possessed of infinite wisdom to contrive, almighty power to execute, and perfect goodness to desire the happiness of Thy creatures.

We are sensible that our goodness cannot extend to Thee, and that Thy glory can receive no addition from our imperfect services. Thou knowest all our circumstances and wants, and needest not that we should inform Thee of them: Thy unchangeable goodness is at all times disposed to bestow upon us every real good: we presume not, therefore, by our religious worship, to promote Thy perfection, to increase Thy knowledge, or to move Thy compassion. But to testify unto others our reverence for Thee, the Author of our being, to excite and improve good dispositions in our own minds, and by contemplating and admiring Thy perfections to form our spirits to a

resemblance of Thine, would we now join in expressing before Thee the gratitude and devotion of our hearts; which is our reasonable service.

Assist us to perform this solemn duty in such a manner, as to render our services acceptable to Thee, and of great advantage to our own souls. Do Thou, who hast constant access to our minds, dispose the frame and temper of them for conversing with heavenly objects, and excite in us a spirit of genuine piety and true devotion. Considering that we are, now and at all times, in the presence of that God who searcheth the heart, may we ever be afraid to praise Thee with our mouths, and honour Thee with our lips, while our hearts are far from Thee. May no intruding cares disturb our devotion, no mean desires or affections interrupt our delightful intercourse with Thee, the Father of our spirits: but may our souls be wholly and closely engaged in the sacred exercises of religion.

And with us be gracious also to every assembly of worshipping christians this day. May the gospel of Christ have free course and be glorified, and manifest itself to be the power of God unto salvation. May it every where triumph over corruption and sin, and become the blessed instrument of turning many souls out of the paths of wickedness and folly, into the way which leads unto everlasting life.

Hear us, merciful Father, pardon our imperfections, and accept our services, as those of grateful disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we ascribe unto Thee everlasting praises. Amen.

# Lessons from the Old Testament.

O Almighty and most gracious Father, God over all, blessed for evermore! Who can by searching find out Thee? Who can find out Thee, the Almighty, unto perfection? Yet blessed be Thy name, who hast revealed Thyself in Thy works and in Thy word; and in both hast enabled us to discover so much concerning Thee, as demands our supreme homage, veneration, and love.

We adore the immensity of That Wisdom, which knoweth all things both in heaven and in earth; under whose notice we are when we converse with our fellow-creatures, and when we are alone by ourselves; which seeth us by night as well as by day, and witnesses not our outward behaviour only, but also every thing which passes within us. We stand in awe of the resistless power of Him, by whom the heavens and the earth were created; who spake and they were made, who commanded and all things were established; whose providence sustaineth and preserveth them, and who doeth what pleaseth Him in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth. We rejoice in that goodness, which constantly cherisheth and adorneth the creation, and causeth every part of it to abound with beauty, order, and happiness; which is not confined to superior beings and to higher

worlds, but sheds its influence on this earth also, and visits with kind regard the creatures which are made to dwell upon it. We praise Thee, O Lord, the Father of mankind, that Thou hast enabled us to behold Thy goodly works, to be instruments in the hand of Thy providence, and to partake of Thy bounty and favour. We bless Thee for the art and skill displayed in our formation; for the exactness with which our various senses and affections are adapted to the circumstances in which we are placed; and especially for that constitution of our minds, which has rendered us capable of those exalted satisfactions, which arise from the contemplation of truth, from the exercise of friendly and social dispositions, and from the love and practice of religion and virtue.

But it is our duty above all to love Thee, with our whole hearts, for that rich grace and mercy manifested in the redemption of our degenerate race: that when men had debased their excellent nature, and departed from the true God, when they were corrupt in their understandings and hearts, and sunk in ignorance and sin, Thou hadst compassion, and didst graciously appoint the means of their recovery by Jesus Christ: in whom Thou hast set up a perfect pattern of holiness and virtue, hast given us in his gospel the most pure and excellent precepts, a full and joyful assurance of life and immortality, and the promise of Thy gracious assistance and support in the pursuit of virtue, glory, and eternal life.

We praise Thee that this grace, which offereth salvation to all men, hath appeared unto us; and that we enjoy so many advantages for improving our souls in knowledge and goodness, and training us up for life everlasting.

In the mean time we thank Thee for all the advantages we have enjoyed; for our present ease and health; for the continued use of our reason; for our relatives, friends, and acquaintance; for the intercourses of general society; and for every thing which has contributed to the comfort of our lives, or the improvement of our souls in grace and goodness. Thy mercies, O Lord, surpass the power of our thoughts to conceive; they are new every day, and increase as fast as the moments of our lives. Dispose us always to reflect upon them with pious gratitude; and to express it not by our lips only, but by cheerfully complying with Thy whole will, and devoting our lives to the obedience of Thy commandments.

But have we, gracious Father, maintained hitherto, a due sense of Thy numberless favours, or a becoming regard to our manifold obligations? Have we not shamefully transgressed Thy laws; behaved in a manner unworthy of our reasonable natures; neglected the culture and improvement of our souls, and covered ourselves with guilt and iniquity? We lament before Thee the perverseness of our wills, the treachery of our hearts, the inconstancy of our good affections, our proneness to corrupt inclinations and

sinful desires, and our reluctance to the practice of what is excellent and good. We have sinned, O Father, in Thy sight, and are not worthy to be called Thy children. But Thou, O Lord, waitest to be gracious, and art ready to receive Thy penitent offspring, upon the terms proposed in the gospel. For Thy goodness' sake in Christ Jesus, be merciful to our unrighteousness, blot out our iniquities, and reconcile us to Thyself, rebellious children as we have been to a gracious and merciful Father. Deliver us from the power and dominion of sin; renew us in the temper of our minds, and cleanse our hearts from all base passions and hurtful desires. Grant that our tempers and lives may become more suitable to the glorious privileges and exalted hopes which we derive from the gospel; that we may walk worthy of our high and honourable calling, and adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. Teach us to love and imitate that pattern of all excellence, which is exhibited in the character of Christ His well beloved son; to resemble him in his piety and devotion, in his extensive charity and generous benevolence, in his patience, meekness, and cheerful resignation to Thy sovereign will; to cherish in our souls all those divine and lovely qualities, which shone so eminently in his perfect character; to govern our lives uniformly by the precepts of the gospel; and to admit the proper influence of its promises and awful warnings on our tempers and conduct.

While we continue in this uncertain world, we

would desire to refer ourselves entirely to thy all-wise disposal. Lead us whithersoever Thou wilt, deal with us as Thou pleasest; give us poverty or riches, prosperity or adversity, as shall seem best to Thine infinite wisdom and goodness; bless us only with peace and content of mind, and with wisdom to adorn every state and circumstance of life, by a pious and becoming behaviour.

But as we are creatures designed for an everlasting life, may we not confine our views within the limits of this world; but be chiefly solicitous to provide for that part of our existence, which reaches beyond the grave. May a sense of the shortness and uncertainty of life engage us to make the best use of our present moments; and may the prospect of endless life and happiness hereafter exalt our minds above all sordid and low desires, strengthen us in the pursuit of every thing truly good, and secure us from the influence of all temptations to evil. May we be constant, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord; for as much as we know that our labour is not in vain in the Lord: And finally, may we obtain the end of our faith and hope, even the salvation of our souls.

Our Father, &c.

#### XII.

YE THAT FEAR THE LORD, PRAISE HIM: LET YOUR PRAISE BE OF HIM IN THE ASSEMBLY OF HIS SAINTS; AND PAY YOUR VOWS IN THE PRESENCE OF THEM THAT FEAR HIM.

O ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father! Thou art God, and there is none else; a Being possessed of every perfection in the highest possible degree: whose nature is eternal, whose presence is unbounded, whose power is infinite, whose knowledge is universal, whose goodness endureth for ever and extendeth every where. From Thee we derive our being, and on Thee we constantly depend. To Thee we are indebted for our present enjoyment, and for all our hopes of future happiness. We esteem it our highest honour and privilege to worship Thee, and would address Thee at this time with reverence and godly fear. And O Thou Father of lights, be pleased to open our minds, and enrich our souls with wisdom. Dispose us to receive the truth in the love of it; may it enter our minds with deep impression, may it overcome our prejudices, dispel the clouds of ignorance and error, and become at once the delight of our hearts, and the guide of our conduct.

While we contemplate Thy glorious and amiable perfections, may the image of them be formed in our own minds; may our souls improve in holy affections, in admiration and love, in joy and hope, in trust and dependence; and may we esteem it the truest and best worship to become more like the Being whom we adore.

May we read and hear Thy word with that serious attention and reverence, which its importance and divine character so justly demand.

May we sing Thy praises, and pour out our thanksgivings, with pious cheerfulness and grateful affection.

And when we offer up our further supplications, may we address Thee with honest purposes and holy desires: may we pray in faith, nothing doubting, but exercising a firm confidence in Thy goodness, and resting with entire dependence on the promises of Thy word. Teach us to distinguish between good and evil, and to desire those things only, which will conduce to our true interest: and whatever we may ask, may it always be with this exception—if it be consistent with the wise and good order of Thy providence, and agreeable to Thy holy will.

Guide us by the councils of Thy spirit and word through what remains of this mortal life; teach us daily to advance in wisdom, piety, and goodness, and to prepare for the delights and exercises of the heavenly world; and at length receive us to Thyself in glory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Lesson from the Old Testament.

O God, the first, supreme, and best of Beings: we would present ourselves before Thee as the creatures of Thy power, the subjects of Thy government, and the disciples of Thy Son Christ Jesus, acknowledging Thy greatness as the Sovereign of nature, who rulest all things with the highest perfection of power, wisdom, and goodness. By Thy word were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of Thy mouth: the earth also is Thy workmanship, and all that dwell therein. And O how beautiful are all Thy works; how gracious Thy divine administration! How plentifully dost Thou provide for all Thy creatures: they are hungry, and Thou feedest them; they wait upon Thee, Thou satisfiest their desires; Thou openest wide Thy bountiful hand, and liberally suppliest Thy whole creation with good.

Among the rest, O Lord, what reason have we to speak well of Thy ways, and to offer our tribute of praise and thanksgiving! For Thou hast raised us high in the order of beings, and bestowed upon us honourable distinctions: Thou hast created us in Thine own image, and rendered us capable of knowing something of our frame, our duty, and our expectations. And when mankind were deaf to the voice of reason and conscience, and had defaced the glorious image of their Maker, Thou wast pleased mercifully to send Thy well beloved Son, to enlighten, reform,

and save them: and through him didst reveal Thy nature and perfections as most amiable and lovely, Thy providence and moral government as most pleasing and satisfactory, Thy gracious offers of pardon to the penitent as most consolatory to guilty creatures, and the glorious gospel of life and immortality brought to clear and certain light as affording the best encouragement to a patient continuance in well-doing.

O Lord, we lament the unworthy returns we have made for all this goodness and mercy. We look back with shame and regret on the many instances of our ingratitude and folly; that our hearts have not been duly influenced by the principles of piety and virtue, but have been debased by sinful inclinations, and drawn aside by corrupt affections and passions: that we have often neglected that homage and obedience which our dependent relation to Thee as our Creator so plainly intimate to be Thy due: that we have slighted the awful threatenings of the gospel, nor suffered its gracious promises effectually to excite us to a life of righteousness.

Pardon our many transgressions, we beseech Thee, and restore us to duty and better obedience. Reconcile us to Thyself, according to the riches of Thy grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Suffer us not, from any foolish and unreasonable hopes of pardon, to continue in a course of disobedience; but convinced from the holiness of Thy nature and the declarations of the gospel, that its mercies will be

extended to none but those who repent and forsake their sins, may we cease to do evil, learn to do well, and break off all communion with the unprofitable works of darkness.

Enable us to lay the restraints of temperance and moderation upon all our appetites and passions, and remove the evil effects which past indulgence may have had upon our minds, that neither our understandings nor our wills may be perverted by them. May we no more put darkness for light, or light for darkness, but follow those things only which are excellent and praiseworthy; and maintain a constant regard for the dictates of conscience, and the laws of our divine religion.

Teach us wherein our true happiness consists, and and shew us the right means of obtaining it; suffer us not to be mis-led by false opinions of good and evil, but enable us to distinguish our true and proper good, from that which is false and deceitful. Preserve us from forfeiting the eternal blessings of a future world, for the sake of any present sensation of transient joy. Convince us that our highest happiness consists in freedom from evil passions, in the cultivation of generous and humane affections, and in the exercise of becoming affections towards Thee our God, and towards our Lord Jesus Christ. Teach us to esteem these things as the object of our strongest affection and most earnest pursuit; and through Thy blessing on our sincere and hearty endeavours, may we obtain

the happiness we aspire after. And O do Thou, the Father of our spirits, grant us Thy gracious assistance and direction, to enlighten our understandings, to correct our wills, and to suppress all our irregular propensities, that they may never disturb or hinder our progress in the path of christian duty.

Enlarge, we pray Thee, our knowledge of divine things; and give us clearer and more exalted views of Thy glorious perfections. May a deep sense of Thy perfect goodness and impartial justice inspire us with that love which shall manifest itself in a becoming imitation. May a regard to Thy supreme authority, and a strong conviction of Thy continual presence, habitually possess our minds, and influence all our conduct. And may this consideration, that nothing can be hid from T hy notice, engage us to purify our souls from all mean thoughts and evil desires, and prevent us from yielding to the strongest temptations to transgress any of Thy commandments.

Adorn our minds, we beseech Thee, with every amiable and virtuous disposition, and enable us to discharge the various duties incumbent upon us, according to our several relations; receiving favours with gratitude, and injuries with meekness and forbearance; behaving with respect to our superiors, with friendly regard to our equals, with kindness to our inferiors, and with gentleness and goodwill to all. May we be honest and just in our dealings, true to

our promises, sincere in our professions, faithful to our engagements, and careful to answer the reasonable expectations as well as just demands of all men.

Withdraw our affections, we entreat Thee, from the fleeting and deceitful pleasures of this present world, and dispose us to desire and pursue that real goodness and worth, which can never be deprived of the happiness which arises from Thy favour.

We humbly beseech Thee never to leave us to ourselves. Be always present with us to guard us from evil, to direct us in every important concern, and to strengthen us under every trial with which it may please Thee to exercise us in this eventful world. We know not the scenes which lie before us, or the changes we may have to undergo; but of this we are assured, that Thou art ever wise and just and good; we would therefore desire to unite our wills with Thine, and cheerfully to embrace whatever may befal us in the course of Thy providence. We would not, therefore, presume to pray for any particular circumstances in this life; but, referring ourselves entirely to Thy all-wise disposal, we would pray to be enabled at all times, to act with propriety the part that is appointed us, and to adorn every condition by a suitable beha-If Thou shouldst place us in prosperous circumstances, may we never forget ourselves, or the uncertainty of all human things; may we not become haughty and proud, or insolent and oppressive; may we not be unmindful of our dependence upon Thee,

and our great obligations to Thee; may we receive our abundance with thankfulness, enjoy it with innocence, and use it with liberality. If it please Thee to bring us into affliction and distress, may we cheerfully submit to Thy providence, and never be prevailed upon, by any worldly considerations, to renounce our integrity. Instead of increasing our sufferings by imprudence or fretfulness, may patience and discretion, under the influence of piety, soften their severity, and convert them into the means of improvement in all virtue.

Prepare us, we beseech Thee, for the hour of death; and when the powers of nature fail us, be Thou our support: may we view with serenity and good hope the awful prospect of eternity; and when we are called to appear at Thy tribunal, to be judged according to the gospel of Thy well beloved Son, may we be approved by Thee, the All-seeing Judge, and be admitted into the mansions of everlasting glory, prepared for all his faithful followers by our Lord Jesus Christ; in whose words we conclude our imperfect supplications.

Our Father, &c. Amen.

## XIII.

O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD; FOR HE IS GOOD; FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH FOR EVER.

O Gop, before whose throne multitudes of saints and angels continually cry aloud, saying, Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, who art, and wast, and art to come; Thou art worthy to receive glory and honour and praise, for Thou hast created all things, and at Thy pleasure they are and were created. Thou art very great, and there is none that is like unto Thee: Thou hast established Thy throne in the heavens, and Thy kingdom ruleth over all; be Thou exalted, O God, above the highest heavens, and praised be Thy glorious name, for Thou art great and doest wonderous things, Thou art God alone. Of old hast Thou laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Thy hands; these shall perish, but Thou shalt endure; yea, they all of them shall wax old as doth a garment, and as a vesture shalt Thou change them, and they shall be changed; but Thou art the same evermore, and of Thy years there is no end! Yet, though Thine excellence is eternal, and Thy power infinite; though Thou art unerring in wisdom, and adorable in majesty beyond our most exalted conceptions; these glories of Thy nature do not surpass Thine unlimited and perfect

goodness. To this we owe every enjoyment of our lives, not only all our present pleasures, but also all our future hopes. To this we are indebted for those noble distinctions, which Thou has placed between us and the beasts which perish; whereby we are made capable of knowing Thee, of understanding Thy works and Thy will, and of conforming our lives to the precepts which Thou hast given us; whereby we are enabled to enjoy the pleasures of friendship and society, and to taste the delights which flow from benevolent actions; whereby we learn the benefit of temperance and sobriety, and of a moderate enjoyment of the good things of life. But to this, above all, we are indebted for those gracious revelations which Thou hast from time to time vouchsafed to communicate, by which Thou hast instructed us in the knowledge of Thy glorious perfections, and in the several duties which Thou requirest of us. For these instructions we bless and praise Thee, and desire to make the proper use of them; more especially we would praise Thee, with our whole hearts, that after Thou hadst at sundry times and in divers manners spoken to the fathers by righteous men and prophets, Thou hast, in these latter days, spoken unto us by Thy Son and our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ; whom Thou hast constituted the head over all things to his Church, and commanded that every reasonable creature, to whom his gospel may be proposed, should observe his precepts and follow his steps.

How great is Thy goodness to the children of men, in thus sending him into the world upon the gracious errand of peace on earth and good-will towards men, in thus enabling him to teach the purest precepts of virtue and religion, and empowering him to promise the rewards of everlasting life and happiness to all his faithful followers; and by these promises to lead the whole race of mankind into the love and practice of universal righteousness! How amiable was his example, who spake as never man spake, who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth; who went about continually doing good, and when put to death by wicked and ungrateful men, shewed forth to the world a perfect example of meekness and forbear-Blessed be Thy name who hast enabled him, for the wisest and most gracious purposes, by Thy good spirit dwelling within him, to support this excellent character unto the end; to abstain when reviled from reviling again, to cease, when persecuted, from threatening or repining, but rather to pray for his murderers on the Cross; Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!

How glorious was Thy mighty power, when it broke the bands of death and of the grave, and raised up this Thy well beloved Son to be a prince and a Saviour; a pledge for the future accomplishment of his promises, and an earnest and example of that glorious resurrection which Thou hadst commissioned him to declare unto men. Blessed be God, who by his Son

Jesus Christ hath abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light by his gospel. Blessed be God, who hath thus destroyed the power and fear of death, by making it the passage to a more glorious and happy state hereafter, even to a place among those many mansions which are in his Temple which is above, which Christ is gone before us to prepare for all his faithful followers.

O may we not receive all this grace and goodness in vain; but may it be our constant study to act as becometh the disciples of so excellent a master, and the children of so gracious and kind a Father, even the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we ever esteem it our glory to be called Christians, and may we be careful not to disgrace so honourable a profession. May we avail ourselves of the advantages which, as Christians, we possess, and study to recommend our religion to others, by bearing open testimony to its truth, and by professing it in its greatest purity, so far as we can discover it. And as the greatest and most dangerous corruption of the gospel, has been the disobedience of its righteous precepts, may it be our constant care and study to keep Thy commandments in all things, to pay a due regard to the excellent example of Christ, and to be properly influenced by the animating motives which he hath set before us.

We acknowledge that hitherto we have not improved our advantages as we ought to have done;

we have too often broken through the obligations which we were under as rational creatures, as subjects of Thy moral government, and as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, to practise all righteousness with our whole hearts. Many times have we been led astray by divers temptations, by the evil inclinations and desires of our own corrupt hearts, by the snares of the wicked, and by the influence of evil examples. We have done those things which we ought not to have done, and we have left undone those things which we ought to have done. We have sinned and offended Thee, O God, and we find from experience that it profiteth us not.

O God, who delightest in mercy, we appear before Thee as erring and guilty creatures, to supplicate Thy gracious forgiveness of all our past sins, and to implore Thine assistance and favour, that hereafter we may better obey Thy righteous commandments.

We desire to draw near unto Thee as the disciples of Christ, and to unite our fervent petitions before Thee, that Thou wilt not be strict to mark, or severe to punish our offences, since in Thy sight then could no man living be justified. Enable us to collect from Thy works and Thy word, just notions of our relation to Thee our God, and to all our fellow-creatures around us. Dispose us never to neglect any more the offering of prayer and praise unto Thee, the almighty and unchangeable Being; teach us to cherish

in our minds sentiments of most cheerful confidence in all Thy dispensations, which are always merciful, wise, and just; instruct us in the whole of our behaviour to our fellow-creatures, and dispose to promote in our several stations, the general advantage of the whole human race, and more especially the good of those with whom we are more intimately connected. Teach us to correct all evil inclinations and propensities, and to purify our private characters from every deformity and blemish. May we study to be virtuous not in name and word only, but in deed and in truth; to cleanse ourselves from every secret wickedness, from every evil thought and word and action, and thus to become perfect in every good work. be led to this wise and happy conduct by the best and purest motives; by a principle of love and duty to Thee, who hast been so kind and gracious to us, by a sense of Thy constant presence with us, and intimate knowledge of all our thoughts, words, and actions; and by a perfect conviction, that religion and virtue are agreeable to the original uncorrupted nature of man, and will effectually secure our highest happiness both here and hereafter.

We beg Thy blessing upon the religious services in which we are now engaged; may every opportunity with which we may be favoured of worshipping Thee, or of meditating on Thy word contribute to our more perfect establishment in some good sentiment, principle, or practice, and thus conduce to our more complete preparation for the services and enjoyments of a future glorious world.

These are our petitions we offer up unto Thee, in the name and as the disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord, &c.

### XIV.

## [From the Collects of the Church.]

LET THY MERCIFUL EARS BE OPEN UNTO OUR PRAYERS; AND THAT WE MAY OBTAIN OUR PETITIONS, MAKE US TO ASK FOR SUCH THINGS AS WILL PLEASE THEE, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men, grant unto Thy people at all times, but especially when they join to offer their petitions unto Thee, that they may love those things which Thou commandest, desire those things which Thou approvest, and hope for those things which Thou promisest; that so among the manifold changes of this mortal life, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where alone true joys are to be found, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Do Thou from whom all good things do come, teach us Thy humble servants to think only those things that are good, and by Thy merciful guidance to perform the same: being doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving our own selves.

As Thou the Almighty and Everlasting Father, hast given unto us Thy servants to know Thee the Only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent, we beseech Thee keep us steadfast in this faith,

and evermore defend it from all adversaries; who livest and reignest One God, world without end.

And O Thou, merciful and gracious God, who hatest nothing which Thou hast made, and hast sent Thy well beloved Son to declare the forgiveness of their sins to the penitent, create in us new and contrite hearts, that we, sincerely lamenting our sins and acknowledging our unworthiness, may obtain of Thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. As he came to die for our sins, and rise again for our justification, do Thou mortify and kill all vice within us; grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may be effectually delivered from those sins which by our frailty we have committed; and so strengthen us by Thy grace, that by the innocency of our lives, and the constancy of our faith, we may henceforth serve Thee in pureness of living and in truth, and glorify Thy holy name even unto death. As Thou hast given Thy beloved Son to be also unto us the example of a godly life, give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive this his inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life.

Almighty God, who shewedst to them that were in error the light of Thy truth, to the intent that they might return into the way of righteousness, grant unto all those, who are admitted into the fellowship

of Christ's religion, that they may avoid those things which are contrary to their profession, and follow such things as are agreeable to the same, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant, O Lord, that all those who are baptized into the death of Thy blessed Son our Saviour, by the continual mortifying of their corrupt affections may be so buried with him and dead unto all sin, that through the grave and gate of death they may pass to a joyful resurrection, and may live together with him who died, and was buried, and rose again, and is gone to prepare a place for all his faithful followers; that where he is, they may be also.

Almighty and everlasting God, who of Thy tender love towards all mankind, hast sent Thy Son Jesus Christ to partake of our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind might follow the example of his great humility and patience, mercifully grant that we may both follow his example, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; that in all our sufferings here upon earth we may steadfastly look up to him, and by faith behold the glory that shall be revealed: that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in imitation of him in the days of his humility; so that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, by the mighty power which he hath

received from Thee, we may be welcomed as the blessed children of Thee our Father, who livest and reignest ever one God for ever and ever.

And grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty Father, that as we believe our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we also may in heart and mind ascend with him thither, and so live as not of this world, that we may at length be raised continually to dwell with him in his Father's house. And as when Thou didst exalt this Thy beloved Son with great triumph unto his kingdom, Thou didst not leave his servants comfortless, but sentest Thine Holy Spirit to lead them into all Truth, grant us by the same spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in the comfort of Thy word, and finally be exalted unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before, to prepare a place for all his faithful followers.

And since Thy blessed Son was manifested that he might destroy the works of darkness, and make us sons of God and heirs of eternal life; grant unto us, we beseech Thee, that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves even as he is pure, that when he shall appear again with power and great glory, we may be made like unto him in his eternal kingdom.

O God, who hast prepared for them that love Thee such good things as surpass understanding, pour into our hearts such love towards Thee, that we, loving Thee above all things, may obtain Thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire or conceive.

O Lord of all power and might, who art the Author and giver of all good, graft in our hearts the love of Thy name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of Thy great mercy keep us in the same, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth, pour into our hearts that most excellent gift, which is the bond of peace and of all virtues; without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before Thee: Grant this through the influence of the gospel of Thy blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; who being himself the chief corner stone, do Thou who art the chief builder grant, that on this foundation we may be so joined together in unity of spirit, that we may be made a holy temple unto Thee the Father of all: giving ourselves up immediately and entirely to obey Thy holy commandments; forsaking all worldly and carnal affections; all covetous desires, and inordinate love of riches; resolving constantly to speak the truth; patiently suffering for the truth's sake; and following the call of our Lord Jesus Christ. And may it please Thee that, by the wholesome medicine of the doctrine of the gospel, all the diseases of our souls may be healed, and we may become in all things conformable to the example of Christ.

Almighty and everlasting God, who art always

more ready to hear than we are to pray, and art wont to give more than we either desire or deserve, pour upon us the abundance of Thy mercy; forgive us those things whereof our conscience is afraid; and give us those things which we are not worthy to ask, but as we are encouraged by the mediation of Thy well beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; in whose comprehensive form of words we would sum up our imperfect requests, saying, as he taught his disciples,

Our Father, &c.

# XV.

O ALL YE WORKS OF THE LORD, BLESS THE NAME OF THE LORD: PRAISE AND MAGNIFY HIS NAME TO-GETHER.

O Gop, the giver of all good, who delightest in the happiness of all Thy creatures, and art imparting unto them continually of the riches of Thy bounty; we desire to come before Thee with our grateful thanks for all the instances of Thy goodness towards ourselves. Thou art the former of our bodies, and the father of our spirits: Thou hast taken a wise and gracious care of us ever since we came into the world, and Thy loving kindness hath ever attended us. All our wants are supplied by Thee; from Thee all our enjoyments proceed; and Thou crownest our days with Thy goodness. Thou providest for the support of our bodies, which are Thy workmanship; and under Thy direction all the measures of Thy wisdom administer to our necessities. We bless Thee, who givest us food convenient for us, and appointest refreshment and repose for our wearied powers. To Thy kind and merciful providence we owe the raiment with which we are clothed, the habitations in which we dwell, and all the fruits of our industry and labour. We thank Thee more especially for reason and understanding, and for all the treasures of

knowledge which Thou hast opened to our view. We bless Thee for the virtuous capacities with which Thou hast adorned our minds; and for all the opportunities with which we are favoured for the knowledge and practice of our duty, and the attainment of our highest happiness. We thank Thee that we are placed in a social state, and endowed with social affections; and that we enjoy such a variety of pleasures from the esteem and friendship of our fellow-men. To Thy goodness we ascribe the various happiness which we receive from the discharge of duty, and from the exercise of the good principles with which Thou hast graciously endowed our minds. Thou hast mercifully appointed, also, a variety of trials, for the improvement and perfection of our natures; and Thou givest us the prospect of a more perfect and happy state hereafter.

From Thee, O God, our enjoyments proceed; and to Thee we present our united thanks, with joyful and grateful hearts.

We thank Thee above all things, merciful Father, for the rich display of Thy goodness by Christ Jesus. We bless Thy name that Thou hast made such provision by him for our improvement in the best things. We acknowledge with the highest gratitude the excellent doctrine and perfect example of our blessed Lord and Master: by whom Thou hast given us Thy heavenly truth, to enlighten our minds, to sanctify our hearts, and to guide our feet in the way of peace:

in whose conduct and character Thou hast afforded us a pattern of the most exalted goodness, to excite our zeal, to animate our endeavours, and to encourage us to press forward continually towards perfection; by whom Thou hast inspired us with the hope of Thy mercy to sinners, of Thy forgiveness to the sincerely penitent, of Thy gracious aid to confirm and give success to our humble purposes of amendment, and, above all, of the final accomplishment of Thy promise by him of eternal life and happiness. For Thou hast raised him to be a Prince and a Saviour, and given him to be the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey him.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with spiritual blessings in heavenly things through Christ Jesus!

O Lord, O Lord God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us: we desire to confess and forsake our sins, believing that Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We confess that we have often sinned, in thought, word, and deed, against Thy divine majesty; we have despised Thine authority and abused Thy goodness: we have neglected the duties of piety to Thee our righteous Governor and gracious Benefactor; we have been deficient in the exercise of kindness towards our brethren, and

have indulged too much our appetites and passions. Thus have we forfeited Thy goodness towards us, we have exposed ourselves to Thy just displeasure, and our only hope is in Thy mercy. Forgive us, merciful Father, we entreat Thee; vouchsafe unto us that goodness on which Thou encouragest us to hope, and make us partakers of that mercy which Thou hast manifested by Christ Jesus. Deliver us, we beseech Thee, from the guilt of our sins, and us raise above their power; renew us in the spirit of our minds that we may truly repent of them, and bring forth the worthy fruits of repentance in the future obedience of our lives. Deliver us also from the evil consequences of our transgressions, and establish our minds in the sense of Thy forgiveness, and in the hope of Thy future favour, according to the promises of Thy mercy and grace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, the author of all grace, and the fountain of all good, assist us to mortify every evil inclination, to rectify every imperfect affection, and to render ourselves complete in well-doing. Let our understandings be freed from every false opinion, and our hearts from all corrupt and perverse dispositions; and dispose us to proceed in the way of Thy commandments, till we attain at length to that advancement in virtue and true goodness, which may render us meet for Thy heavenly kingdom.

Adorn our minds with those dispositions, which may prepare us for all the duties of life: may we be

meek and humble, contented with our condition, and ready to acquiesce under all Thy appointments: may we love Thee entirely as our chief good, study to serve our fellow-creatures with a sincere affection, and keep our hearts with such true diligence, that the best dispositions may always maintain the greatest influence over us.

O God, the fountain of all knowledge, give us a right understanding of Thyself. By the frequent joyful contemplation of Thy goodness may we improve in the love of goodness, and prepare ourselves by the practice of all good works, for an admission into that kingdom of righteousness, which Thou hast provided by Thy well-beloved Son, for all those who love Thee and keep Thy commandments.

Let the truths which Thou hast revealed in the gospel be the means of enriching our minds with the best knowledge, and of producing in us a divine nature: and let a constant attention to the instructions and example of Christ make us free from all sensual affections and desires, and advance us, under his direction, in the practice of all divine and social virtues. Retaining a constant persuasion of Thy goodness, may our confidence in Thy mercy manifested by him awaken our aversion to sin, and our love to holiness and virtue, and move us constantly to seek what Thou approvest, and wilt finally reward and honour.

With Thee, our heavenly Father, would we leave

all external things. Safe under Thy protection, and happy in Thy favour and friendship, we would cheerfully follow whither Thou shalt be pleased to direct us. Teach us to desire only that portion of earthly good which Thou seest to be best for us, and to decline no sufferings which Thou shalt appoint for the trial and improvement of our virtue. Save us, we beseech Thee, from the snares of prosperity and of adversity; suffer us not to forget Thee in our abundance, or to question Thy goodness in our distress: in health and in sickness, in life and in death, may we lift up our souls unto Thee, and make Thy goodness alone our confidence and joy; and may we so pass through the changing scenes of this present world, that we may be prepared for perfect and durable happiness with Thee hereafter.

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly offer these our prayers in his name and as his disciples: we rejoice that Thou hast raised him above men and angels, that Thou hast given him a name which is above every name, and a kingdom which is above every kingdom; and that Thou art graciously disposed to bestow by him immortal life and happiness on all his faithful followers. By his instructions and example we desire to govern our lives; and in his name and words we would further pray unto Thee, saying, as he taught his disciples,

Our Father, &c.

# XVI.

HEAR, O YE PEOPLE; GIVE EAR, YE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH: FOR THE LORD GOD OMNIPOTENT REIGNETH! SING UNTO THE LORD, GIVE THANKS UNTO HIS NAME; GIVE THANKS AT THE REMEMBRANCE OF HIS GREATNESS. TRUST IN HIM AT ALL TIMES; POUR OUT YOUR HEARTS BEFORE HIM; FOR HE IS A REFUGE FOR US. HE KNOWETH THE THOUGHTS OF EVERY MAN'S HEART, AND WILL GIVE UNTO EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS WORKS. OFFER THEREFORE UNTO HIM THE SACRIFICE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND COME UNTO HIS ALTARS WITH HANDS WASHED IN INNOCENCY.

O Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty, before whom all creatures bow, and to whom all hearts are open; we acknowledge ourselves unworthy to be admitted into Thy presence, or to join in the solemnities of Thy worship; we would, therefore, prostrate ourselves before Thee with the deepest reverence and humility; but yet encouraged by Thy goodness, who by Jesus Christ hast invited us to come before Thee in the humble confidence that Thou wilt give all things which are good for them to those who ask in faith. Dispose us to celebrate Thy perfections, and speak of Thy works, with reverence and true devotion; to give thanks unto Thee, and to sing Thy

praises, with gratitude and joy; to confess our sins with contrite hearts, and steadfast purposes of amendment; and to pray unto Thee for ourselves and others unto a just sense of our dependence upon Thy providence, and with fervent charity to all mankind. We would keep a watchful guard over ourselves at all times, but especially when we are employed in the important duties of Thy house; that no vain thoughts may distract our minds, no unworthy objects withdraw our affections; but that our whole hearts may be engaged in Thy service, and that the influence of these our religious services may be abundantly shewn forth in the actions of our lives. All which we humbly ask for in the name and as the disciples of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

## Lesson.

We praise Thee, O God; we worship Thee, the One true and living God, the King of kings and Lord of lords, the blessed and the only Potentate, the Creator and Preserver of all things! Thou didst speak, and the world was made; Thy providence supporteth the works of Thy hands; and the happiness of Thy creatures is the end of all. But before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth or the worlds, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God! Of old hast Thou laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Thy hands; these shall perish, but Thou shalt

endure; Thou livest and reignest One God, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever.

We adore and worship Thee, a pure and spiritual Being, whom no man hath seen or can see. Thou passest by us on every side, but we behold Thee not; Thou workest wonders on the right hand and on the left, but we cannot perceive Thee.

Whither can we flee from Thy presence? Heaven is Thy throne, and the earth Thy footstool; all things are full of Thee. Who can withstand Thy power? Thou doest what Thou pleasest in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: none can stay Thy hand, or say unto Thee, "What dost Thou?"

Thou hast founded the earth by Thy wisdom, and stretched out the heavens by Thine understanding; Thou art wonderful in counsels, and excellent in all Thy works? Thou art the Righteous Lord, who executest judgment in the earth: Thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; sinners cannot stand before Thee: while the upright in heart are always in the light of Thy countenance.

But Thou art also the Lord God gracious and and merciful; the God of love and of all consolation. Thou delightest to make Thy creatures happy: Thou doest good continually; and Thy tender mercies are are over all Thy works.

But who, O Lord, can shew forth all Thy praise? We behold the monuments of Thy power, we trace the footsteps of Thy wisdom, and every moment of our lives partakes of the riches of Thy bounty; but none can say how great and wise and good Thou art: none can find out Thee, the Almighty, unto perfection.

O most merciful and gracious God, we confess that in many things we have all offended. We have been disobedient to Thy authority, and unmindful of Thy goodness: we have not behaved as Thy children, and as the disciples of Thy Son Christ Jesus. We have no merit to plead before Thee; but all our hope is in Thy mercy. In humble dependence on that mercy, as manifested by Jesus Christ, we intreat Thee, Father, to forgive our sins, negligences, and follies; whatever Thy pure and holy eyes may have seen amiss in us. Cleanse us, we beseech Thee, from our unrighteousness; and grant that we may bring forth fruits answerable to repentance, by walking before Thee in newness of life, to the glory of Thy holy name.

For this end we pray unto Thee, O God, whose nature and property it is ever to have mercy and to forgive, that a sense of Thy goodness may lead us to true repentance, destroy every evil inclination and habit, and form our minds to a virtuous and heavenly temper. Inspire us with an abhorrence and dread of sin, and teach us hereafter to live a sober, righteous, and godly life in this present world, in humble expectation of Thy mercy unto eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Do Thou, whom all the host of heaven worshipeth, lead us to entertain a devout sense and holy admiration of Thine excellent nature; to look up unto Thee with satisfaction and joy, as the Giver of all good; to delight in Thy service; to be thankful for Thy numberless mercies; to confide in Thy wise and gracious providence; and to yield an unreserved and cheerful obedience to all Thy holy commandments.

O God, who art love, and who dwellest in love, we earnestly desire to imitate Thy constant universal goodness; to behave in our several stations with integrity and benevolence, and to shew the true spirit of kindness in all the relations of life; to walk within our several houses with a perfect heart; to be faithful and affectionate to our friends, and just and charitable to all men: to put on the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit; and be daily improving our minds in all good and generous dispositions; till we become meet for that world where love and peace and joy shall reign for ever more.

O God of wisdom, teach us the knowledge of ourselves. Teach us to keep our hearts with all diligence, and amidst the trials and changes of this world, to maintain a constant habit of self-government. In prosperity may we be thankful, humble, and charitable; in adversity patient, and wholly resigned to Thy unerring providence. Save us, gracious God, from anger and malice, from pride and presumption, from the snares of the wicked, and from the influence of

evil example. Give us prudence to direct our affairs, resolution to preserve our innocence, and wisdom and constancy to retain our integrity so long as we live.-To this end dispose us habitually to keep in mind our constant and necessary dependence upon Thee, whose never failing providence ordereth all things both in heaven and on earth; and to submit in all things to the disposal of Thy wisdom, which cannot err, and to the care of Thy goodness, which is unchangeable and everlasting. Lead us whithersoever Thou wilt, place us in whatever circumstances Thou seest to be most proper for us; and teach us to do Thy whole will with fidelity and pleasure, and to bear Thy whole will with submission and patience. Defend us, gracious Father, from every real evil; confer upon us every needful good: cause all events to conspire to the improvement of our virtue; conduct us by Thine unerring hand through all the changes of this life, and finally admit us to the everlasting habitations of the just, which Thou hast promised to all Thy faithful servants by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

# XVII.

WHO SHALL ASCEND INTO THE HILL OF THE LORD;
AND WHO SHALL STAND IN HIS HOLY PLACE? HE
THAT HATH CLEAN HANDS, AND A PURE HEART;
WHO HATH NOT LIFT UP HIS SOUL UNTO VANITY,
NOR SWORN DECEITFULLY: HE SHALL RECEIVE
THE BLESSING FROM THE LORD, AND ACCEPTANCE
FROM THE GOD OF HIS SALVATION. I BESEECH
YOU, THEREFORE, BRETHREN, BY THE MERCIES
OF GOD, THAT YE PROVE YOURSELVES A LIVING
SACRIFICE, HOLY, ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty, who art, who wast, and who art to come! Thine, O Lord, is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all things in heaven and on earth are Thine: Thine is the kingdom, and Thou art to be worshipped as Lord over all. Dispose us to come before Thee with pure hearts, in full assurance of faith; believing that Thou art, and that Thou art the bountiful Rewarder of all such as diligently seek Thee: to wash our hands in innocency, that so we may compass Thine altars, O Lord: to sing Thy praises with understanding: to worship Thee, who art a spirit, in spirit and in truth: and when we confess our sins before Thee, do Thou hear in heaven, Thy dwelling-place, and when Thou

hearest, forgive—Let our prayer come before Thee as incense, and the lifting-up of our hearts as an acceptable sacrifice.

It becometh us to extol Thee, O God most high, and to bless Thy name for ever and ever. For Thy hands have made and fashioned us; Thou didst breathe into us the breath of life, and thine inspiration hath given us understanding. In Thee we daily live and move and have our being. Surely goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our lives. Thou givest us richly all things we enjoy. It becometh us, therefore, to praise Thee for Thy goodness, and for Thy wonderful works to the children of men.

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, to Thee we offer up our grateful thanks for the unspeakable blessing of the gospel; that Thou, who in sundry times and in divers measures hadst spoken to the Fathers by righteous men and prophets, hast in these latter days spoken unto us by Thy Son Jesus Christ; whom Thou hast raised up to bless mankind, by turning them from their iniquities, and to purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. We bless Thee, that for this end he was born, and for this cause he came into the world, that he might bear witness to the truth; and we believe, that he is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. We bless Thee, that he hath left us an example, that we should follow his steps. We thank Thee, that as he was delivered for our offences, he was raised for our justification,

and became the first fruits of them that sleep. Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath begotten us, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for us.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves. and the truth is not in us: we desire to confess and forsake our sins, and we humbly trust that, if we forsake them, Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If Thou shouldst mark iniquity, O Lord, who could stand? but there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayst be feared, and that penitent sinners may hope in Thy mercy. Enter not into judgment with us, for in Thy sight could no flesh living be justified. Pardon the iniquity of Thy servants, according to the greatness of Thy mercy. And do Thou, who desirest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he turn from his wickedness and live, grant not only mercy to pardon, but grace to help in future times of need. Create in us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us. Dispose us to think on our ways, and turn our feet unto Thy testimonies: give us that godly sorrow, which may work repentance unto salvation: suffer us not to be led into temptation, or with every temptation make a way for our escape; and grant that we may finally come off conquerors through him that hath loved us. Forgetting the things that

are past, may we look more attentively to those things which are to come, and press towards the mark for the prize which is proclaimed unto us by Christ Jesus. May we be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as we know that our labour shall not be in vain in the Lord.

O Father of lights, from whom cometh every good and every perfect gift, open Thou our eyes that we may discover the wonderous excellence of Thy law. Shew us the way to life eternal, to acknowledge Thee the Only True God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. Strengthen us to grow up in all things unto Christ: teach us to learn his doctrine by doing his will, and to obtain that true understanding which consists in keeping the precepts which Thou hast delivered by him. Let this effectual knowledge of the truth make us free from all sin, and at length fill us with all the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Enable us at all times to rejoice in Thee the Lord, and to joy in the God of our salvation. Dispose us to love Thee with all our heart, and to shew the sincerity of our love by keeping Thy commandments. Lead us to be followers of Thee, as dear children, and encourage us to strive after perfection, in our measure and degree, as Thou our Father in heaven art perfect.

And, as we are all Thine offspring, dispose us to love one another, with a pure heart, fervently; as far as we have opportunity do good unto all men; and

keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace: and do Thou, the God of love and peace, be with us, and bless us with all joy and peace in believing.

Graciously incline and strengthen us to keep our heart with all diligence, since out of it are the issues of life, to order our whole conversation as becometh the gospel, and to set our chief affections on things which are above. And when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, do Thou give unto us also to appear with him in glory, and to hear the gracious sentence pronounced unto us, Come ye blessed children of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. These our petitions we present unto Thee, in the name and as the disciples of Jesus Christ, who hath taught us when we pray to say,

Our Father, &c.

#### XVIII

GOD IS A SPIRIT; AND THEY, WHO WORSHIP HIM AC-CEPTABLY, MUST WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH: I BESEECH YOU, THEREFORE, BRETHREN, BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, THAT YE PRESENT YOUR-SELVES A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY, ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD; FOR THIS IS YOUR REASONABLE SER-VICE.

INFINITELY glorious and ever blessed Lord our God. we, Thy unworthy servants, desire at this time to offer unto Thee our united thanksgivings for the mercies which we have already received, and our earnest supplications for the continuance of Thy kind and favourable regards. We desire at all times to approach Thy throne as the disciples of Jesus Christ, thankful for that great goodness which Thou hast manifested unto the world in his gospel. Dispose us always to remember Thee, our Creator, Preserver, and Benefactor, with fear, love, and reverence; and to worship Thee, who art a spirit, in spirit and in truth; that our religious services may be acceptable to Thee, and truly beneficial to ourselves. Prepare our minds for a reverent attention to the reading of Thy word, as to the dictates of heavenly truth, designed by the gracious appointment of Thy wisdom to promote our moral and religious improvement, and so to secure

our present happiness, and our eternal salvation. Incline us to give thanks for Thy various mercies, with gratitude and true devotion; to sing Thy praises with understanding, making melody in our hearts unto the Lord; and to receive what shall be delivered for our instruction with attention, candour, and self application. Thus may we become wiser and better by our services in these Thy earthly courts, and at length be admitted to the more exalted services of Thy temple which is above, according to Thy gracious promise to all the faithful followers of Jesus Christ our Lord. Him, though we have not seen, we desire to love, and as he hath taught us, we acknowledge Thee to be the only true God, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

# Lesson.

O Father of mercies, and fountain of all good, we rejoice that Thy divine perfections are manifested unto us in the works of Thy creation: we bless Thee for our preservation in life, for all the comforts and conveniencies we enjoy, and for every instance of Thy goodness and loving kindness to us and to all men. Thou didst at first bestow upon us life, and endow us with the powers of understanding. By Thy paternal care our daily wants have been supplied; and in Thee we continually live and move and have our being. We rejoice that all events are under the direction of Thy Providence, so that nothing can befal any of us without Thy permission.

We thank Thee for all Thy dispensations, whereby Thou hast, from time to time, revealed Thyself to mankind; for all holy men and prophets, whom Thou hast raised up in past ages to teach men the knowledge of virtue and religion, and instruct them in the worship of Thee, the One Only Living and True God.

We give glory to Thee, O Father of life, that in the fullness of time Thou didst graciously send Thy Son Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light, and to bless mankind by turning them from their iniquities. We thank Thee for the proofs which he was enabled to give that he was truly sent from Thee, by the miracles which he wrought, by the prophecies which he fulfilled and uttered, by the purity of his doctrines, the perfection of his precepts, and the excellence of his example. We praise Thee that, according to Thy determined counsel and purpose, he submitted himself to death; that by the energy of Thy mighty power he was raised up again according to the scriptures; and that he thus became the author, the pattern, and the pledge, of that glorious resurrection which he was thus commissioned to publish, and to promise to all his faithful followers. We magnify Thee for the many infallible proofs which he gave of his resurrection, that we, believing, might have hope in his name. And we adore Thee for the animating assurance which we thus possess, that as he liveth, we shall live also.

We thank Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that Thou hast directed and authorised us by Jesus Christ to address Thee as "Our Father who art in heaven." Teach us to manifest our reverence for Thy perfections, by endeavouring rightly to know Thee, and by maintaining such a sense of Thy continual presence with us, under the endearing character of our heavenly Father, as may engage us at all times to love, to serve, and to obey Thee, as dear children.

O God, the Father of all the families of the earth, we pray that all Thy reasonable creatures may "sanctify Thy holy name," by acknowledging thy supreme authority, and acting as becomes the willing subjects of Thy universal government. We pray that the power of true religion may be more felt in the hearts, and manifested in the lives, of all the children of men; that the gospel of Jesus Christ, in all its purity and perfection, may be continually spreading throughout the earth; and that the true knowledge and genuine fruits of it may appear more abundantly in those who profess it; that we, and all the disciples of Christ, may become, every day, more humble, sincere, and holy; may love Thee, our God, with our whole hearts, and do unto others as we would that they should do unto us. And O that, in Thy due time, oppression and ignorance, persecution and war, may cease from off the earth; and all the nations be blessed with virtue and pure religion, and with the peace, good order, liberty and happiness, consequent thereupon!

O righteous Governor of all worlds, let Thy laws, which are wise and just and good, be every where duly obeyed! Let the whole human race be led to serve Thee with a perfect heart and with a willing mind; let their obedience be like the obedience of the blessed spirits above. And, as angels in heaven, who excel in strength, do Thy commandments, hearkening to the voice of Thy word, so let those, who are entrusted with power and dominion upon earth, be ministers of God for good unto their people. Let Thy servant George, our King, rule over this united kingdom in Thy fear; and deeply sensible of his dependence upon Thee, discharge faithfully the important duties of the station in which Thy providence hath placed him. Let all magistrates, and those in authority, consider themselves as stewards of God, to whom they must one day render an account: and let Thy pure and holy laws be, therefore, the rule of their lives, and the guide of all their consultations. Let all christian ministers, of every name and station, sincerely endeavour to understand Thy holy word; let them so explain it to others as to bring them to the firm belief and constant practice of it; and manifest the excellence of the gospel which they profess to preach by their exemplary lives, and holy conversation.

O God, the disposer of all events, we cheerfully commit ourselves to Thy wise and gracious direction. If it be Thy good pleasure, continue unto us the due

supply of our daily returning wants: but let not us be too anxious for the morrow, or fix our hearts upon the good things of this world. While we gratefully own our dependence upon Thee, we trust to receive that portion which Thou knowest to be best for us, and pray that we may be enabled, amidst all the changes of this life, to maintain such a temper and conduct as Thou wilt approve.

We acknowledge that we have not deserved the favours which Thou hast hitherto bestowed: we confess that we have neglected and abused Thy goodness: we lament our past ingratitude and folly: we lament every instance in which we have transgressed, in thought, in word, or in deed. O do Thou assist our sincere desires, and confirm our good resolutions, to forsake every evil way; and then do Thou encourage us to hope and trust effectually to obtain that pardon, which Thou hast promised by Jesus Christ to all those who seek it with a truly penitent and contrite heart; and with that forgiving spirit towards others, which Thou justly requirest in those who seek Thy mercy.

Suffer us not, we humbly intreat Thee, to be tempted beyond what we shall be enabled to resist. Permit us not to indulge in any thoughts, desires, or communications which may be inconsistent with our duty to Thee, to each other, or to ourselves. Deliver us, merciful Father, from impiety and profaneness,

from malice and injustice, from vanity and self-indulgence, and from every thing that is contrary to Thy holy will.

We humbly offer these our adorations and requests unto Thee, who alone art possessed of those perfections, which demand our religious veneration, confifidence, and love. We intreat Thee to accept our praises and supplications; pardon the imperfection of our best services: assist us in the duties which further lie before us; enlighten our minds that we may receive the truth in the love of it, be guided by it through our whole lives, and finally attain eternal salvation, through Thine infinite mercy declared unto mankind by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

# XIX.

# OFFICE ON THE DEATH OF THE HEAD OF A FAMILY.

WHEN MY FATHER AND MY MOTHER FORSAKE ME, THEN THE LORD WILL TAKE ME UP.

LORD, Thou hast been our dwelling-place in all Before the mountains were brought generations! forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth or the world, even from everlasting, Thou wast God; and Thou remainest unchanged in Thy being and perfection, amidst all the vicissitudes to which Thy creatures are exposed. Thou commandest man to destruction, and sayest, "Return, ye children of men!" but Thou art the living God, steadfast for ever; Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Thy dominion shall have no end. From age to age Thou art still the support and defence of all those who put their trust in Thee; Thine ears are open to their cry, Thine arm is mighty to save, Thy counsel standeth fast, and all Thy works are done in truth. We bless Thee, that amidst all the changes to which we are subject in this life, we can turn our thoughts to thine unchangeable perfections, and thence derive peace and rest to our souls. We rejoice in the privilege of access to, and communion with, Thee, the Father of our spirits: when

Thou makest Thy face to shine upon us, and all around us to be glad in Thy love, we will come before Thee with the songs of rejoicing and salvation; in affliction we will cast our cares upon Thee who carest for us, and seek that peace, which the world cannot give, from Thee the God of consolation, who givest unto all men liberally, and upbraidest not. Thou canst cheer the dejected, and calm the troubled mind; Thou woundest, and Thy hands make whole; we enjoy no blessing which does not flow from Thee the fountain of all bliss; our afflictions spring not from the dust, but are sent by Thee in mercy; that being chastened with sorrow, our hearts may turn to the Lord of Hosts. When we look back on the mingled events of which our past lives have been made up, we discern the hand of Almighty Power, guided by the kindness of a tender Parent, ordaining the vicissitudes of joy and sorrow, softening our hearts to gratitude by the long succession of Thy benefits, and purifying and strengthening them by those dispensations, which, for the present, seem not to be joyous, but grievous.

We rejoice, that even in our own experience of Thy providential dealings with us, we can discern the proofs of Thy mercy and loving-kindness: but we would gratefully acknowledge that brighter light, in which the gospel of Jesus Christ displays the conduct of Thy providence towards the children of men. By him, as our Redeemer and our Mediator, we desire at all times to approach Thee; in all our thanksgivings we

would acknowledge the goodness and condescension, with which Thou didst send him into the world, to bring life and immortality to light; to seek, and to save, those that were lost. We bless Thee that, by his mission, that gloom has been dispersed, which hung over the realms beyond the grave; that the earnest longing of our nature for the renewal of our being has been satisfied, and our souls delivered from the bondage of the fear of death. O let us not be moved away from the hopes of his gospel; that we may have a never-failing refuge in affliction, a victory that overcometh the world. Let his word dwell in us richly, granting us wisdom and spiritual understanding; let his precepts lead us into every right way, and bring every thought into obedience to him.

O God of all truth, who hast put it into our hearts to desire the knowledge of Thee and of divine things, let Thy spirit guide, and Thy blessing accompany, our earnest endeavours to attain to a clearer comprehension, and a more lively belief, of those truths which may so affect our present peace and our final welfare. Enlighten and enlarge our minds, we beseech Thee, O Father of lights and God of wisdom! that we may lay aside all vain thoughts, all partial and false views of Thy nature and government, and learn to trace Thy hand, working wisely and graciously in every thing that befals us. Thy good providence allots to each of us the circumstances and events of life; Thou leadest all Thy children by Thine own path, and in

Thine own good time, to the attainment of their truest happiness. Impressed with this conviction, let our hearts be fixed, trusting in Thee, and our faith in the kindess of Thy dealings with us be unshaken, amidst all the varied events of our earthly pilgrimage. Dispose and enable us to acknowledge Thy goodness, even in taking away from us those things on which our affections were most strongly fixed, and in leading us through ways that seem rugged to our feet; that we may thereby have our faith exercised, and our patience perfected.

Let Thy gracious protection, which has brought us thus far on our journey of life, be still continued to us. Be Thou still our sun and our shield; keep us in Thy love and favour, which are better than all earthly blessings, and may we at last be found worthy to be received to Thyself in glory. We ask all in His name, who loved us and gave himself for us, and ascribe unto Thee, through him, glory and honour, salvation and praise, now and for ever. Amen.

## Lesson.

O Thou God of the spirits of all men, who hast endued Thy rational creatures with those affections and dispositions, which lead us to unite ourselves in the bonds of friendly communion and domestic love, we offer up our thanks to Thee, as the source of the pure and exalted pleasures, which flow from the relations which we sustain towards each other. From Thee, the universal Parent, the Fountain of all good, who alone workest in the hearts of Thy creatures both to will and to do, those influences descend, which unite the generations of men in the ties of filial and parental love. We gratefully own Thy wisdom and goodness, in having implanted in the breasts of parents that warm and unwearied affection, which makes them watch tenderly over the life and health of their children, and anxiously promote their present and everlasting welfare. We would acknowledge it as one of Thy most precious gifts, if any of us, by the care of affectionate and virtuous relatives, have been early taught to reverence Thee, to seek Thy face in prayer, and to keep the way of Thy commandments. While we gratefully cherish the memory of those who have thus been Thy ministers to us for good, in disposing our hearts to piety and virtue, by the influence of affection, by precept and by example, and while we endeavour to reward their labour of love towards us, by becoming more and more what they have taught us to be, we would raise our thoughts above all the transitory relations of earth and time, to Thee, who hast given us life and all its blessings, its means of improvement, and its hopes of better things to come. O God of love and peace, do Thou sanctify and bless the connexions of domestic life to those who, by the appointment of Thy providence, sustain them towards each other. May parents receive from Thee an understanding heart, that they may be enabled to train

up their offspring in Thy nurture and admonition; may children obey their parents in the Lord, that they may obtain the favour of their Father who is in heaven. May the members of every household, whom Thou hast appointed to be the promoters of each other's joy, by bringing them together in the endearing relations of domestic life, fulfil the purpose for which Thou hast joined them to each other; may no bitterness of anger, no proud, morose, or selfish dispositions, disturb their harmony and comfort. Living together as children of the same heavenly parent, and travellers towards a better country, may they strive to aid each other's progress in all that is lovely and virtuous; that they may be a mutual blessing, while Thou permittest them to pass the time of their sojourning together; and may be reunited in a happier world, when the days of their pilgrimage are past.

O Thou God of consolation, we would affectionately commend to Thee all those, who are at this time suffering from the loss of valued relatives and friends, snatched from them by death. While they bow in unfeigned submission to Thine appointments, do Thou heal the anguish of the wounded spirit with the balm of heavenly comfort. Enable them by a strong and lively faith, to lay firm hold on those glorious and consoling promises, which Thou hast given by Christ Jesus, to be the support of those who mourn in Zion. May they dry their tears for their present separation from those whom they have loved, by the anticipation

of that time, when the friends whom death has severed from each other, shall renew those sweet intercourses in which they have delighted here, and perfect the communion of their purified spirits, in Thine everlasting presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever. Amen.

Rev. I. Kenrick, M. A.

### XX.

# GENERAL PRAYER ON THE DEATH OF FRIENDS.

IN THE MIDST OF LIFE WE ARE IN DEATH, OF WHOM MAY WE SEEK FOR SUCCOUR BUT OF HIM, WHO HATH BROUGHT LIFE AND IMMORTALITY TO LIGHT BY CHRIST JESUS.

ALMIGHTY God and most merciful Father! To Thee all our hopes and fears, all our desires and wants, all our sorrows and joys, are known ere we can express them before Thee in prayer. With all humility, submission, and confidence, we desire always to acknowledge Thy supreme dominion over the creatures which Thou hast made, Thy wisdom in every event which Thou permittest to happen, thy boundless compassion to human infirmities, and Thy constant goodness in bestowing upon us so much happiness at present, and having in store so much for us hereafter. In every situation of life we would earnestly pray, that all our passions and affections, all our wishes and desires, may be under the controll of reason and religion. In every prayer we offer up to Thee, we would be disposed to pay the utmost deference to Thy supreme wisdom, which alone knoweth what is best for Thy creatures. We desire to feel a cheerful submission to the orders of Thy Providence; a firm faith in the promises of our holy religion; an unshaken resolution to bear with fortitude all the evils of life, and gratefully to receive and enjoy the blessings of Thy indulgent bounty. Thanks to Thy fatherly goodness, which, indulgent to our ignorance and infirmity, to the strength of our passions, and the weakness of our reason, permitteth us to unbosom our griefs, to express our humble wishes, to make known our numerous wants, and to implore Thy divine assistance and support, in circumstances where effectual relief and comfort can only be afforded by the hope of Thy favour, and the most steadfast faith in Thy wisdom and goodness.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath appointed us a High Priest, who hath a fellow-feeling for our infirmities; who having himself been once, like ourselves, a man of sorrows and acquainted with griefs, was formed to sympathize with our sorrows, and to give consolation to the broken-hearted; is disposed to present our supplications unto Thee; and hath encouraged us by his example as well as by his doctrine, not only to love, to reverence, and to obey Thee, but freely to offer up our prayers and thanksgivings, at the throne of Thy grace!

May that spirit which animated all his devotions, and guided every action of his life, inspire us with the same just sentiments and enlarged views, and produce in us the same steady confidence in Thine unerring wisdom, the same humble submission to Thy will, the same cheerful hopes in Thy parental kindness, and the same grateful sense of Thy unmerited favour.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Lord make us ever sensible of our manifold transgressions, of the imperfection of our desires, the strength of our passions, and the inconstancy and irresolution of our conduct. Dispose us faithfully to endeavour to correct whatever has been amiss; and earnestly to implore and seek Thy forgiveness, with the sincerest purposes of amendment.—What we know not, do Thou teach us; what we have neglected do Thou enable us to perform; what is yet wanting to our happiness at present, or necessary to our receiving still greater happiness hereafter, do Thou most graciously bestow.

Every blessing we have enjoyed in life, we gratefully acknowledge has been derived from Thy bounty. What Thou hast graciously given, Thou hast the most undoubted right to take away. Our own lives, and the lives of those, who are dearest to us, are Thy gift, and at Thy disposal. Whatever Thou doest, teach us firmly to believe is not only wisest, but kindest and best. Ignorant of futurity ourselves, we are incapable of seeing the whole extent of the all-comprehensive rectitude and goodness of Thy proceedings. Let our resource and consolation, under the calamities of the present life, be, that all shall work together for good to them that love Thee.

We thank Thee, O God, that, by the gift of Thy Son, by the revelation of Thy will which Thou hast commissioned him to make, by the discovery of a future state and world, which Thou hast ascertained to us by his death and resurrection, Thou hast given such proofs of Thy Fatherly goodness, that we ought not to entertain a doubt that Thou wilt freely grant to Thy creatures whatever they are fit to receive, capable of improving, or prepared to enjoy.

To Thee, therefore, to whom all futurity is open, whose power is capable of making Thy creatures happy in every stage of their existence, and who art continually designing their perfection and happiness, we resign ourselves, and those who are dear to us, persuaded that no sincere and faithful disciple of Christ, can be unhappy in any part of Thy dominions, protected by Thy power, and blessed with Thy presence. O dispose us habitually to recollect to whom we owed them, and whither they are gone. Let it be the language of our hearts, the Lord hath given, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. Make it our chief concern to behave with propriety in every circumstance; to discharge the duties which Thou hast made incumbent upon us; to place our chief happiness in obedience and submission to Thy will, in the firm persuasion of Thy over-ruling providence, in the imitation of Jesus Christ our great example and pattern, and in a steadfast faith in the promises of the gospel. Preserve us from all super-

stitious gloomy fears, and from all enthusiastic foolish hopes, from all fruitless ineffectual wishes. The mercies with which we are still surrounded, are far above all praise; and those which Thou hast in store for such as, by patient continuance in well-doing, seek for glory, honour, and immortality, are far beyond our most sanguine hopes, or most enlarged concep-Enable us to stretch our views to those glorious mansions provided for all Thy faithful servants. Let us not entertain a doubt of the kind provision, which Thou hast made for their everlasting perfection and happiness. And let it be our chief concern, not where or how we shall live, not in what world Thou wilt confer Thy blessings; but let us consider all places as alike to Thee, and capable of producing happiness, in proportion as Thy creatures are obedient to Thy laws, and resigned to Thy direction.

Through all the future periods of our existence, we commend ourselves to Thy protection and blessing. Be it Thy care to dispose of us as Thou seest fit: be it ours to love, to serve, and to obey Thee, as long as we have our being. To Thy service we desire to devote ourselves: by the rules of the divine religion of Jesus Christ, we would wish always to direct our conduct; and to Thy name we ascribe all glory and praise for ever. *Amen*.

### XXI.

# OFFICE FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY.

REPAIR TO THE HOUSE OF YOUR GOD FROM YEAR TO YEAR, AND PAY YOUR VOWS TO HIM WHO LIVETH AND REIGNETH ONE GOD FOR EVER AND EVER.

O Almighty and everlasting God, who of old hast laid the foundations of the earth, and from whose hands proceeded the heavens, with all their glorious hosts! These shall perish, but Thou shall endure; yea, even they shall change as doth a garment, and as a vesture shalt Thou fold them up; but Thou wilt ever be the same, and of Thy years there shall be no end. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Thy dominion endureth from generation to generation. We pray Thee lead us all to acknowledge Thee as the God of our lives and the length of our days; as our Father and our Friend through time and through eternity.

When we look back upon our past lives, we are conscious to a variety of mercies, and are constrained to confess that, in many things, the lines have fallen unto us in pleasant places. O dispose us, gracious Father, to acknowledge the mercies of the past year, and impress upon our minds this important truth, that year after year calleth us to praise Thee for Thy

goodness, and for Thy wonderful works to the children of men. But while we rejoice, and offer Thee the thanks which are Thy due, that we are still the monuments of Thy sparing mercy, O let various events of the past year admonish us to rejoice with trembling, and to resolve to devote ourselves with greater earnestness to wisdom, to virtue, and to Thee; before whose tribunal we know not how soon-but Thou knowest—we shall be called to render our account. In the mean time persuade us that all things work together for good to those who love Thee; to those who shew their love by keeping Thy commandments. Dispose us at all times gratefully to reflect upon the multitude of Thy mercies; to meditate with gratitude on our continual preservation; to dwell with thankfulness on the blessings we have received; and to rejoice in the opportunities of improvement and usefulness, and the consequent sources of enjoyment and happiness, with which we have severally been favoured. Make us ever duly sensible of the importance of religious instruction, and of the advantage of religious exercises; and never suffer us to be unmindful of the benefits which we have derived from the instructions, example, death, and resurrection, of the Lord Jesus Christ. Dispose us ever to rejoice that, in the fulness of time. Thou didst send him into the world to make known Thy blessed will, to go about doing good, and to bring life and immortality to clear and certain light. Make us particularly thankful that he came to bless

mankind by turning them from their iniquities, by preaching the gospel of remission of their sins upon repentance, and thus providing for the reconciliation of sinful men to their kind and merciful Father, to whom they had become enemies by wicked works; but who only waited to be gracious, and was ready to dispense His pardoning mercies to his erring, guilty creatures, on their first return to duty and obedience.

O lead us, gracious God, to reflect with becoming gratitude how well his gracious dispensation is suited to our particular case. When we reflect upon our past lives, and particularly upon the year that is past, we are conscious that we have done many things which we ought not to have done, and have left undone many things which we ought to have done. All our offences are known to Thee, with all their circumstances and aggravations. But how cheering is the light which the gospel throws upon Thy character, as not only offering mercy to pardon, but also grace to help in every time of need; the grace of admonition, caution, and encouragement, which every page of it contains; and especially the animating motive by which it connects the present with the future world, and gives to a sincere though imperfect obedience the promise, not only of the life that now is, but also of that which is to come. O let it be the object of our diligence to make this due application of the gospel of Thy grace; that by bringing forth the fruits of genuine repentance, by ceasing to do evil and learning to

do well, by changing from day to day and from year to year our minds and characters for the better, we may become meet objects of Thy forgiveness, approbation, and final favour and acceptance, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And now we beseech Thee to bless, to our spiritual advantage and benefit, the services in which we are now engaged. Dispose us to observe times and seasons, not as a matter of custom, or through vain curiosity; but to have our minds impressed with a full persuasion, that all events are regulated by the will of Thee, the greatest, the wisest, and the best of Beings. Though we know not the times and the seasons, which Thou hast reserved in Thine own power, yet we know that it is our duty to become thoroughly acquainted with our whole duty, and to cultivate a prevailing disposition habitually to practise it. Dispose us to observe the progress and lapse of time, for the sake of making the best use and improvement of what Thou mayest be pleased, in Thy great goodness, to allot to each of us in the present life. Being conscious that the time which is past can never return, and awfully reminded by the events of the past year, that human life is to us uncertain, and only granted to reasonable creatures on the condition that they spend it in the ways of wisdom, virtue, and religion, O let us never forget to use it as our most precious treasure, to secure whatever may be granted to each of us for the best and noblest purposes, and be careful to

redeem it as much as possible from folly and from sin. By the exercise of all kind affections, by the performance of all good actions, by the service of Thee and of our generation according to Thy will, let it be our happiness to answer the ends of our being in this present world, and finally to be received with the welcome of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and our Judge, and have our place assigned us in those blessed mansions which He is gone before us to prepare for all his faithful followers. Him, though we have not seen Him, we desire to love; in Him, though now we see Him not, yet believing, we rejoice with joy unspeakable; and in his comprehensive form of words we sum up our imperfect requests, saying, as he taught his disciples,

Our Father, &c.

### XXII.

# OFFICE FOR A COMMUNION-DAY.

HE THAT COMETH TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS, AND THAT HE IS THE REWARDER OF THEM THAT DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM.

O ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, dispose us, we beseech Thee, to engage at all times in the public services of Thy house with enlarged sentiments of Thy perfections, and with hearts full of devotion to adore Thee, the greatest and the best of all Beings. While we rejoice in all the testimonies which Thou givest unto Thyself by the things which Thou hast made, and by the acts of Thy providence and government, we desire particularly to acknowledge Thy great goodness to the children of men in the aids which Thou hast afforded them for their instruction in wisdom and virtue, in order to their attainment of their highest happiness. All Thy works and ways proclaim Thee to be the righteous and gracious Governor of Thy whole creation; but Thou hast in a peculiar manner shewn Thyself the Father of mankind, by the merciful purposes which Thou hast expressed towards them by Thy Son Jesus Christ. We desire to magnify that great goodness which sent Thy well-beloved Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved, and which hath made such gracious provision by him for the everlasting salvation of all such as repent of their sins and forsake them. We gratefully acknowledge Thy overruling hand in the first introduction of the gospel into the world; in the wide spread which it has taken; and in its continuance through all succeeding ages. We thank Thee that the corruptions which entered into the church of Christ have received so timely a check; and that Thou hast, from time to time, raised up wise and good men to bear their faithful testimony to the truth, and to assist Thy servants in the way to everlasting salvation. Great and marvellous are Thy mercies, O Lord God Almighty! Just and true are all Thy ways, O Thou King of Saints!

O God, who hast thus conferred such important blessings on mankind, accept our thanks in a particular manner that Thou hast caused us to partake of them. Accept our thanks for all the advantages which we have enjoyed for our improvement in what is excellent and praiseworthy; that our lot is cast in an age and country in which the truths of the gospel are proposed to our free examination, and so many helps have been afforded us for a just acquaintance with them, and a proper improvement of them:—that we are also permitted to associate for religious purposes, and can take such methods as are most agreeable to our several views, for the regular and acceptable performance

of the offices of Christian worship; can hold free communion with each other in sacred things, and reap the practical benefits proposed from the preaching of the word, and the celebration of the ordinances of the gospel:-that we are exempted from the rage of persecution to which our forefathers were exposed, and are members of religious societies in which we may present ourselves before Thee, our Father, according to the dictates of our consciences, free from the fear of what men can do unto us. O let a sense of Thy mercies ever attend us; and by a diligent improvement of them may we every day grow more and more prepared for a higher state of being! We would call upon our souls and all that is within us to bless and praise Thy holy name: and we desire, by these expressions of our gratitude, to strengthen our virtuous purposes, and to confirm those habits which Thou wilt graciously accept, and reward with eternal salvation.

We lament that with so many advantages for the knowledge and practice of our duty, we have made no greater improvement. We lament our inattention to the truths of the gospel, and the little concern we have shewn to practise the duties which it prescribes, and to adorn it by our temper and character. We would be sincerely concerned for every thing which we have done amiss, particularly for every thing inconsistent with the relation we bear to Thee as disciples of Jesus Christ; and we trust that we entertain sincere pur-

poses of repentance and amendment. We rejoice that by Jesus Christ we have received encouragement to confess our sins, under a full persuasion of Thy mercy to all those who repent of their sins and forsake them. On these terms, O God of mercy, would we seek the forgiveness of them; and we humbly pray that, by Thy grace and the teachings of Thy word, Thou wilt make us superior to all future temptations, and conduct us in the ways of holy obedience to Thy heavenly kingdom.

Make us sensible of the need we have of Thee in all things, and of the particular need we have of Thee in the practice of the duties to which Thou callest us. Let it be our fixed purpose to keep all Thy commandments, which we acknowledge to be wise and just and good; and let it ever be with sincere hearts that we express before Thee our earnest resolution to abstain from every thing which Thou hast forbidden, and to approve our fidelity and diligence in Thy service.-Teach us always to look up unto Thee, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, beseeching Thee, that, agreeably to the love which Thou hast shewn unto us through him, Thou wilt teach us to observe the precepts which Thou hast given us by him, and to cultivate the virtues of which he left us an example; that so we may adorn our religion while we live, and finally share the blessings which it provides for those who are faithful unto death.

We desire to pray that Thou wilt vouchsafe Thy

favour to all those who are united to each other by the knowledge and profession of the gospel. Be gracious to Thy servants who statedly assemble in this place for the purposes of religious worship. Enlighten their minds with the knowledge of Thy truth, and direct their willing feet into the way of Thy commandments. Dispose them, in their several stations, to such a conduct, as may be consistent with their christian profession, and an ornament to it: and to this end dispose them to a diligent attendance on the services which are here presented before Thee. May they unite their praises, thanksgivings, and petitions, with a spirit of true devotion, and receive the instructions which shall be given from Thy word with becoming attention and regard.

Assist Christian Ministers in the duties of their office: possess their minds with a sincere love of the truth, and with a constant concern to approve their fidelity and diligence in Thy service; and may their faithful labours be attended with abundant success. And by Thy blessing on their doctrine and example, and on the willing disposition of Thy people to hear the word of instruction, may the churches of Christ, which are already planted, approve themselves in the sight of all mankind; to the everlasting joy of all those to whom it may be proposed, and by whom it may be professed; and to Thy glory, which is best manifested in the happiness of Thy creatures.

We ask all as the disciples of Jesus Christ, who

came thus to manifest Thy glory to mankind: and in whose comprehensive form of words we would sum up our imperfect requests, saying, as he taught his disciples,

Our Father, &c.

#### XXIII.

# OFFICE ON THE MEETING OF AN UNITARIAN FUND OR TRACT-SOCIETY.

THE HOUR COMETH, AND NOW IS, WHEN THE TRUE WORSHIPPERS SHALL WORSHIP THE FATHER IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH; FOR THE FATHER SEEKETH SUCH TO WORSHIP HIM. GOD IS A SPIRIT, AND THEY, WHO WORSHIP HIM ACCEPTABLY, MUST WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH.

Almighty God, the giver of all good, the father of lights, and the fountain of wisdom and knowledge, we thank Thee that, being formed after Thine own image, and endowed with understanding and reason, we are capable of inquiring after important truth, and of directing our conduct in the pursuit of happiness by the rules of virtue and religion, and according to the dictates of conscience.

We thank Thee that, in aid of this natural light, Thou hast added the gift of revelation, by which Thou hast communicated the most valuable information concerning Thine own nature, perfections, and government; concerning our duty here, and our expectations hereafter. We rejoice that, on every occasion of Thy gracious intercourse with mankind, Thou hast represented Thyself unto them as the proper object of

their reverence, love, and joyful confidence; as a Being of infinite wisdom and goodness, of boundless compassion to human infirmities; and ever ready, on their sincere return to duty, to extend Thy free mercy and forgiveness towards them.

We thank Thee more especially for the gospel of Jesus Christ; by whom it hath pleased Thee to establish the unity and mercifulness of Thy nature, and Thy unrivalled supremacy with regard to himself as well as to every other being; and who has likewise given us, in his own death and resurrection, the most satisfying assurance of an universal resurrection.

We deeply lament the departure of the Christian world from this pure faith of the gospel, in exalting him, whom we desire to honour with all due reverence as Thy well-beloved Son and servant, even the meek and humble Jesus, to an equality with Thyself the Father Almighty, and ascribing to him that supreme worship, which he expressly disclaimed; in stripping Thee of the most amiable of Thy attributes, Thy own essential goodness, and representing Thy free mercy to penitent sinners as not to be obtained without a full and ample satisfaction; and in limiting that mercy, even when so obtained, to a part only of the children of Thee, the common Father of all.

But we thank Thee, who, we doubt not, wilt, in Thine own due time, bring light out of darkness, order out of confusion, and good out of apparent evil, that, in several countries, many of these corruptions have already been reformed, and that unrighteous dominion over conscience is every where giving way to the power of truth, and the just liberties of mankind.

We thank Thee for the strenuous labours of many faithful servants, who, with various degrees of light, according as Thou hast been pleased to bless their sincere inquiries after truth, have exerted themselves to spread it among their fellow-men; and, renouncing all worldly advantages, not accounting even their lives dear unto them, have boldly asserted their Christian liberty, and held themselves bound to none but Thee, the Only True God, the sole immediate Lord over conscience; and to him whom Thou hast appointed to act by commission from Thee, as the Shepherd and Bishop of Souls, the Man Christ Jesus.

We adore the wisdom of Thy providence in making the restoration of learning instrumental to the reformation of religion, by its impartial application to discover the real sense of the Scriptures of Truth.—We thank Thee that so much has been already accomplished; and we pray that, by a continued and diligent study of Thy word, we may, in due time, be led to the full discovery of every remaining error, and be brought to receive the whole truth in the love of it.

Hasten, we entreat Thee, the approach of that glorious time, when the gospel shall recover its primitive purity and efficacy; when Thou alone, the Only true God—of perfect rectitude—of spotless

purity—of essential goodness and mercy—shalt be the object of Thy creatures' worship; when they shall have recourse to no means of rendering themselves acceptable to Thee, but those which the gospel prescribes, sincere repentance and amendment, in humble dependence on Thy free mercy in Christ Jesus; and when no apprehension of arbitrary decrees shall alarm their fears or encourage their presumption.

Inspire all the disciples of Him, who came to bear witness to the truth, with a just zeal for the propagation of what shall appear to them to be the truth, according to their several ability and opportunity. May neither the love of popular applause, of filthy lucre, or of any other worldly advantage; may neither the fear of man's reproach, of poverty, or of death, be a snare to them in their labour of love; but may they daily rejoice in the testimony of their conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity they have their conversation in the world!

We thank Thee for the favourable circumstances in which we can now appear before Thee; that we now can worship Thee alone, according to the dictates of our consciences, free from any fear of what man can do unto us: and we pray Thee to hasten the happy time, when all the powers of this world, whether national or individual, temporal or spiritual, supreme or subordinate, who may have usurped any authority over the consciences of men, may be led to see the propriety of relinquishing their

unjust claims. Do Thou, O Lord God Almighty, take unto Thyself Thy great power, and reign; and may the gospel of Jesus Christ, in all its primitive purity, go forth conquering and to conquer: may it be preached in Thine own due time, to all that dwell upon the earth; to every nation and kindred and tongue and people! By this brightness of our Lord's appearance may the Man of Sin be utterly consumed; that all the kingdoms of the earth may become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ.

In the mean time we pray, that we, and all the professors of Christian truth, may be careful to recommend the truth which we profess, by a suitable life and conversation. May we distinguish ourselves by having the same mind which was also in Christ Jesus; by genuine humility, meekness, forbearance, and brotherly love; by sobriety, purity, and temperance; by all the habits of a heavenly mind; and by rational and cheerful devotion: that when our Lord shall come, according to Thine appointment, to take an account of his servants, and to be glorified in those who have obeyed him, we may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Now unto Thee, who alone art eternal, immortal, and invisible, the only wise, living, and true God, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

### XXIV.

### GENERAL INTRODUCTORY PRAYER.

O COME LET US WORSHIP AND BOW DOWN BEFORE THE LORD OUR MAKER.

Almighty God, who though unseen art every where present, and though exalted above all blessing and praise art ever ready to hear and answer the supplications of Thy servants! We, Thy creatures, dependents, and subjects, desire at this time, with deep humility and godly fear, to offer our devotions unto Thee, the only proper object of religious worship, gratitude, and veneration. Thou, O Lord, art very great, and there is none that is like unto Thee. Thou, O Lord, art very good, and there is none that can be compared unto Thee. None can be perfect as thou art perfect, in wisdom, power, and greatness; in holiness, rectitude, and purity; in unbounded love, and unconfined benevolence. Thou art good unto all Thy works, but unto us more especially, Thy rational offspring. It becometh us, therefore, as the objects of Thy peculiar bounty, to give thanks unto Thee at all times, and to rejoice continually under a sense of our dependence upon Thee.

This is the day which the Lord hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it. We desire to embrace

the opportunity, which it affords, of offering praise and pure worship. Purify Thou our hearts within us, and enable us to present ourselves before Thee in a manner becoming the disciples of Jesus Christ, and the children of Thee our common Father. rect and bless our services at this time: prepare us to read Thy holy word with devout attention and reverence, to lay up in our hearts the sacred precepts which it contains, and to make them the rules of our future conduct. Dispose us in our further prayers to ask those things only, which are worthy of Thee to bestow, and fit for us to receive; to confess our sins with unfeigned sorrow, and with steadfast purposes of amendment; and to ascribe unto Thee the glory and the praise that, on these terms only, Thou hast declared by Jesus Christ Thy gracious purpose of forgiveness and final acceptance. Bless the word of instruction which shall now be delivered, so far as it shall be agreeable to truth, and to the dictates of Thy holy word and will, and grant that it may have a happy influence on our future temper and conduct. And thus let all our religious services contribute to establish and confirm our minds in the knowledge, love, and practice of every thing that is excellent and praiseworthy, and prepare us for the services and enjoyments of that future happy state, in which we hope to know Thee better, to love Thee more, and to serve Thee in greater perfection.

All we beg as the disciples of Jesus Christ, for whom we would now and at all times praise Thee, and as he has taught us, ascribe unto Thee our Father in heaven, the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

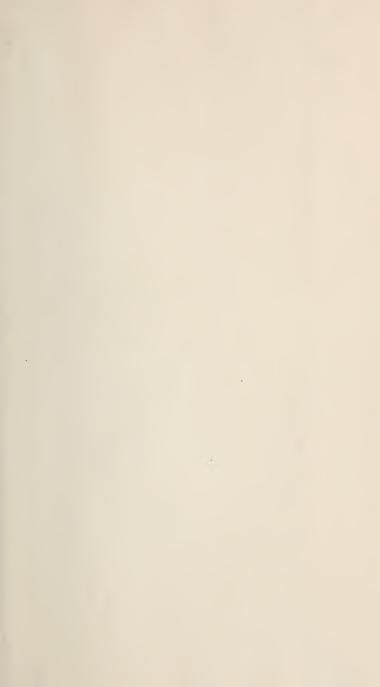
#### XXV.

### GENERAL CONCLUDING PRAYER.

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto Thee, and to meditate on the truths contained in Thy holy word; and has graciously encouraged us by the promise of Thy well-beloved Son, to hope that wherever two or three shall gather themselves together in his name, Thou wilt grant their requests, as if he were himself present in the midst of of them; fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of Thy servants, as shall be most expedient for us; granting us in this world the knowledge of Thy truth, and the grace to observe and practise it, and in the world to come life everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, who hast made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the faces of the earth, hear we beseech Thee our united intercessions, with which we desire [for the present] to conclude our imperfect services before Thee, on the behalf of all our brethren of mankind. Let the gospel of Thy Son prevail universally, and produce every where the happiest effects; let it dispel the shades of ignorance and error, of superstition and false religion; let a spirit of love and peace universally prevail; and do Thou, the God of

love and peace, be with us and with all men. We beseech Thee to bless this united kingdom; bless all who are placed in authority over us, and particularly Thy servant our Sovereign King George; and enable them to consult, in all their measures, the general peace, tranquillity, and happiness. [Bless the high court of Parliament, now assembled, and overrule all their debates and proceedings for the public good.] Bless the Judges of the land, and all inferior magistrates, [accompany the Judges on their present circuit] and enable them to dispense justice with judgment and equity. Hear our prayer for the sick and afflicted [especially for Thy servants who desire an interest in them]; comfort those that mourn; fit for death those who are shortly to depart this life; prepare us for our great change by death, and for a happy eternity. [Accept the thanks of those whom thou hast favoured with recovering mercies; let restored health be devoted to Thy service, in a faithful discharge of the duties of this life, and a diligent preparation for a better. Accept the thanks of Thy servant, for whom Thou hast appeared in an hour of danger and difficulty, [and made the living mother of a living child, and brought again into this house of prayer, to make her thankful acknowledgment of Thy protecting mercy.] [Let every addition to the families of Thy servants be an additional comfort and blessing, and a fresh inducement to walk before their house with a perfect heart, and to train up their



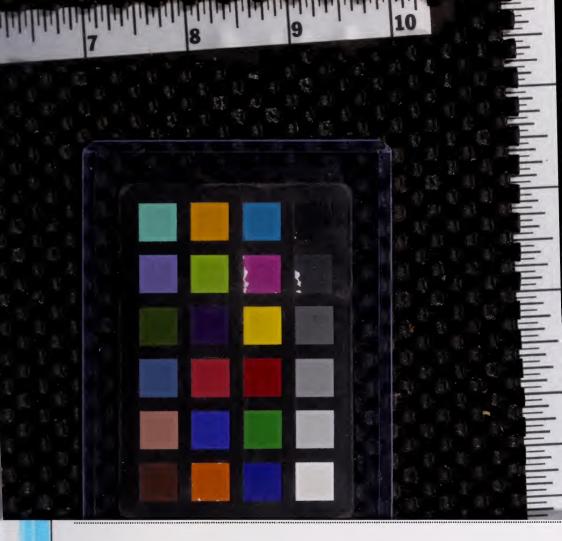












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